

BLACKSHIRT BREAKDOWN

CRICK Takes Over

OFFENSE ANALYSIS

Who's the **QB**?

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NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

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SPRING PREVIEW

5 Questions to
Answer This Spring



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Will Crick Be The Face of the Defense?

Defense characterized Nebraska last season. And All-America tackle Ndamukong Suh, the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner (and other awards) winner, characterized the defense.

APRIL, 2010 • VOLUME 30 • NO. 4

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Volume 30, Issue 5, the May edition recapping the annual Red-White Spring Game will be mailed in late April. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

5 Questions

The Unanswered Get Answered



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

JARED CRICK jumps into the spotlight this season as the junior from Cozad anchors one of the toughest defensive lines in the country. He will get a taste of the limelight during the Huskers spring practices when the Blackshirts take the field without Ndamukong Suh.

Photo by Randy Hampton

SPRING FLINGS

Fans, media fall in love with stars during the spring

I ATTENDED MY first Nebraska spring game on April 11, 1998.

I remember it, not for the plays made on the field, but rather the excitement and speculation it encompassed.

I was in my first year working for the University of Nebraska Sports Information Department and I was sitting in the press box keeping official stats – if there are such things as “official” stats for a scrimmage.

While there were plenty of story lines that spring, my lasting memory is the disbelief of watching fans stuff the stadium for a football scrimmage. Records will show that 60,498 piled into Memorial Stadium, setting a new attendance record for the annual affair.

There was no shortage of attention for the Huskers that spring. Nebraska was coming off of the 1997 National Championship, in fact, 40,000 fans had turned out the night before to celebrate the championship team and outgoing coach Tom Osborne.

Frank Solich was the new face at the Big Red helm and there were numerous other questions to answer, none bigger than the replacement for Scott Frost at quarterback.

The Huskers Illustrated spring preview edition (Volume 18, No. 4) featured Frankie London on the cover, who entered the spring No. 1 on the QB depth chart. The sophomore from Lake Charles, La., had the most experience, playing in nine games in 1997, completing 10-of-22 passes.

Despite his experience, the job was wide open as sophomore Bobby Newcombe was attempting to move from wingback and



freshman Eric Crouch was returning from ankle and knee surgery. With the benefit of hindsight, junior Monty Christo and freshman Jay Runty were definitely on the outside looking in for the position battle.

Newcombe was the people's choice and Solich's pick after that spring game. Newcombe led the White team in rushing with 116 yards rushing on six carries for the White team and led the Red team in rushing, with 59 yards on seven carries. He dazzled the crowd with a 91-yard touchdown on the White team's first play from scrimmage only to follow with a 43-yard touchdown pass to Casey Vanderhoef five minutes later.

The point?

Fans and media are quick to tab the next Husker star during the spring, when in reality they are proven in the fall. Ask Bobby. He would start the Huskers first game against Louisiana Tech, but suffer a torn PCL in the game. He would still start six games at QB that season, but his career as a QB never got back on track.

The quarterback battle will be the center of attention this spring, and rightfully so. It will provide a number of snaps for a batch of inexperienced candidates. But in reality, the true revelation will be made in another four and a half months. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, April 17	Spring Game	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	TBA



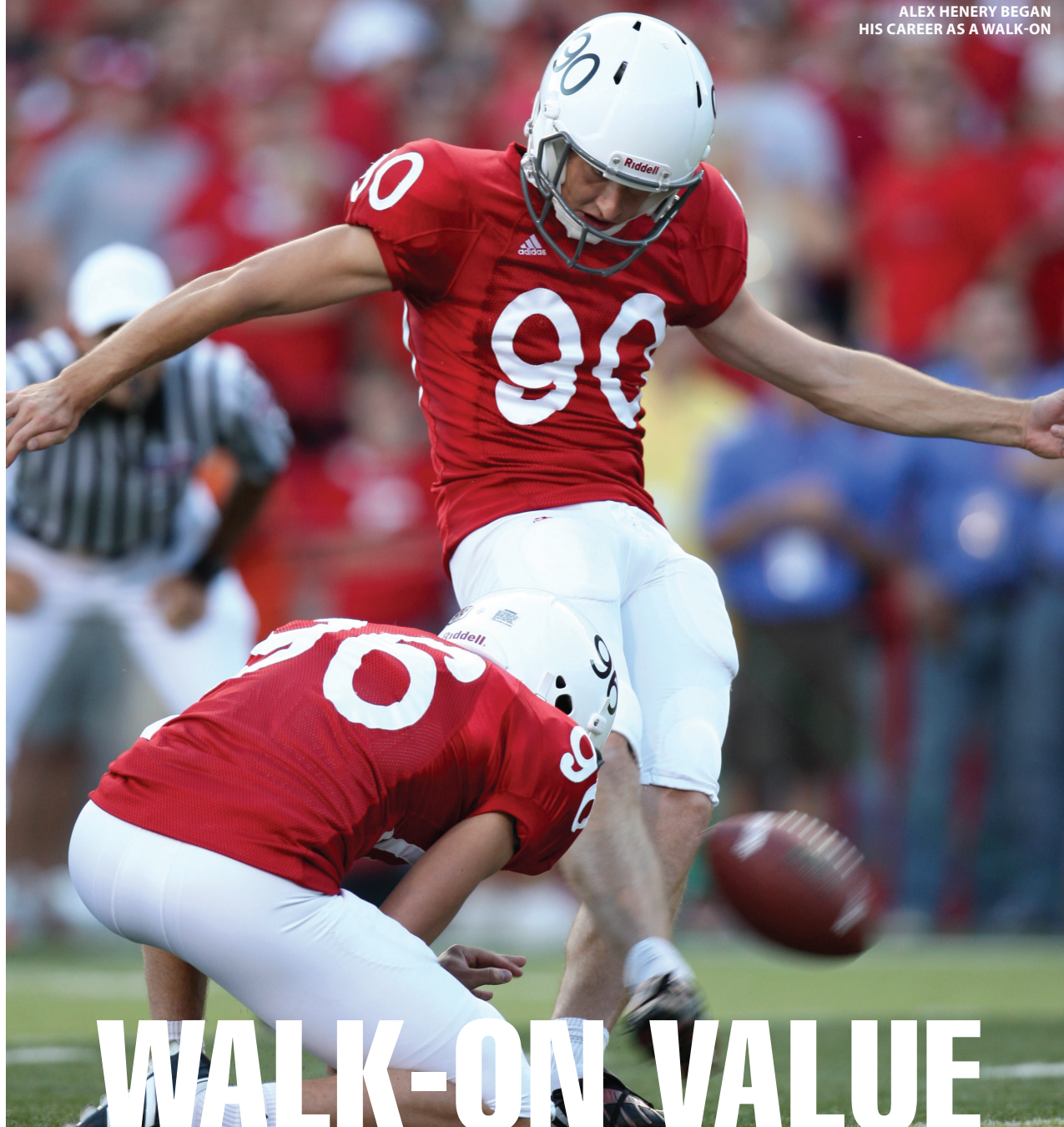
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ALEX HENRY BEGAN
HIS CAREER AS A WALK-ON



WALK-ON VALUE

SCOTT BRUHN

Like his boss, Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE, BO PELINI** has embraced the walk-on program for practical reasons, not just the tradition. “There are a number of those guys that provide depth and have a chance to be really good players for us, increase our depth and increase our numbers in a lot of spots,” said Pelini. “We

didn’t have those numbers before because they just weren’t there.

“Over a couple of years now, we were able to increase those numbers.”

In addition to creating an additional talent pool, the walk-on program enhances practice by allowing more stations. “It kind of changes how you practice and

the amount of reps you can give to guys,” Pelini said. “For instance, let’s say you’re deep at the defensive back position. You can’t rep all those guys if you don’t have all the offensive linemen, defensive linemen, to put in there and have reps in those areas. Now we’re a little bit more equipped to be able to practice that way.”

2MinuteDrill

ALONGSIDE CRICK

Despite the loss of **NDAMUKONG SUH** and **BARRY TURNER**, the defensive line again should be a strength of the team. “I think we’re going to have depth on our defensive line, probably greater depth than we’ve ever had since I’ve been here,” said **BO PELINI**. “I like our d-line as a whole, inside and outside.”

Though competition is the order of the day, junior-to-be **JARED CRICK** appears set at one tackle, with the job alongside of him up for grabs. **BAKER STEINKUHLER**, **TERRENCE MOORE** and redshirted freshman **THADDEUS RANDLE** were among those Pelini mentioned who are competing for the job.

In addition, freshmen **CHASE ROME** and **JAY GUY** enrolled for second semester.

“Obviously, they’re young guys, but they’re guys we feel like have talent to help us down the road, and it gives us a chance to work with them here in the spring,” Pelini said.

Also, sophomore-to-be **JUSTIN JACKSON**, a walk-on, “had a good winter,” said Pelini.

MORE ON THE RUNNING GAME

Running the ball continues to be an offensive emphasis, and “you’re just looking at greater depth at both the tailback and fullback positions,” said **BO PELINI**. “You add that to the depth of the offensive line and I think that will equate in the end to a chance to be a better running team.”

The Cornhuskers ranked 62nd nationally and sixth in the Big 12 in rushing last season, averaging 147 yards per game. They ranked 37th in Pelini’s first season, averaging 170 yards per game.

Walk-on **TYLER LEGATE** was the top fullback in 2009. Freshman **C.J. ZIMMERER**, who’s coming off a redshirt, is in the mix, as are **MIKE HAYS** and **RYAN HILL**, who’s listed as a tight end.

COULD HAVE GONE

Although he was just a sophomore in 2009, **JARED CRICK**, first-team All-Big 12 according to the conference coaches, could have submitted his name for the NFL draft because he redshirted his first season at Nebraska. However, even if he had consulted the draft advisory board and been told he would have been a second- or third-round pick, he would have stayed.

“You see what (**NDAMUKONG**) **SUH** did when he came back for those two years and just how much he’s gained, he’s expanded,” Crick said during bowl

preparations. “I expect if I keep working hard and doing what I’m doing with Coach **BO (PELINI)** and Coach **CARL (PELINI)**, that’ll happen as well.”

The subject was brought up late in the season, in advance of the deadline for declaring. “Mainly friends have talked about it,” Crick said at the time. “But it’s really nothing that’s really crossed my mind. I still want to be here, at least until I get my degree. That’s my main focus of being here.

“My mom would kill me if I didn’t get my degree.”



HE’S BACK

Some NFL draft analysts projected **PRINCE AMUKAMARA** as a potential early-out. Amukamara, who will be a senior this season, earned first-team All-Big 12 recognition from the conference coaches, the first Cornhusker cornerback to be so honored since **KEYUO CRAVER** in 2001.

That Amukamara and defensive tackle **JARED CRICK**, a junior-to-be, both were considered possible early departures is a reflection of the Huskers’ improving talent level.

CREDIT DOBSON

Strength coach **JAMES DOBSON** earned **BO PELINI**’s endorsement for his work with players during the off-season conditioning program. “I wouldn’t trade anybody for him,” Pelini said. “I think he’s done a tremendous job, he and his staff. It set us up to have a good spring.”



HEART-FELT ENDORSEMENT

That Nebraska led the nation in scoring defense in 2009 is a reflection of the quality of coaching by **BO PELINI** and the defensive staff. But **NDAMUKONG SUH** offered an even better assessment of that coaching at the Outland Trophy presentation dinner in Omaha in January.

After describing himself as “not a very emotional person,” Suh was clearly emotional talking about his now-former head coach and the defensive coaches, who were on-hand to support him.

Suh needed a handkerchief to make it through.

He turned to defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI**, “Coach Carl,” and struggled to express his feelings. “It means a lot...just everything that you’ve done, coached me, and just small talk, sitting in your office, just me and you, with the door closed, being man-to-man,” he said, voice cracking.

“It means a lot. And I really appreciate it.”

That’s as good of an endorsement as any coach could get.

ONES WHO GOT AWAY

Being a runner-up in recruiting doesn’t mean much. This year, the big one who got away from Nebraska was defensive tackle **OWAMGBE ODIGHIZUWA** from Portland, Ore.

Back in the day, when recruits could sign conference letters of intent (not everyone did) a couple of weeks before signing binding national letters of intent, it could be more complicated.

In the early 1970s, in consecutive years, the Huskers signed high-profile defensive linemen from Ohio to conference letters of intent, only to see them go elsewhere on national signing day. **GARY JETER**, the brother of former Cornhusker **TONY JETER**, picked USC, and **ROSS BROWNER** picked Notre Dame.

Both earned All-America honors and were first-round NFL draft picks.

Signing Big Eight letters of intent “was the worst thing that could ever happen because then everybody knew who they had to shoot at,” then-coach **TOM OSBORNE** said.

“So they (other schools) all bad-mouthed Nebraska.”

SIDELINES

CORNHUSKER CONNECTION

Nebraska has two transfers from Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College participating in spring practice, wide receiver **BRANDON KINNIE**, a junior-to-be, and offensive lineman **JERMARCUS HARDRICK**, who enrolled for second-semester classes. In the fall, they’ll be joined by another Fort Scott transfer, linebacker **LAVONTE DAVID**. Fort Scott head coach **JEFF SIMS** was an assistant to **JEFF JAMROG**, the Cornhuskers’ assistant athletic director for football, when Jamrog was the head coach at Minnesota State. “So we have a very good relationship with Jeff at Fort Scott,” said Jamrog.

SUPPORTING SUH, TOO

When **NDAMUKONG SUH** was traveling the country for awards ceremonies late last season, coaches traveled to support him. It was important that Nebraska be represented at the functions.

With that responsibility and recruiting, **BO PELINI** did plenty of flying.

When he flies, he often reads. “I usually read until I fall asleep,” he said during a busy time in mid-December, which meant he wasn’t getting much sleep.

“So sometimes I end up slobbering all over a book,” he said.

BUCKS FOR BO & THE BOYS

BO PELINI and his staff were rewarded for the Cornhuskers' success the past two seasons with significant raises. Pelini's annual base salary was bumped from \$1.851 million to \$2.1 million, which ranks fifth among Big 12 coaches. His base salary when he was hired in 2008 was \$1.1 million.

Pelini also received a one-year extension on his contract, through 2014. In addition, if he remains at Nebraska for those five years, he will receive a \$500,000 bonus.

Defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** received the biggest increase among the assistants, a nearly 80 percent hike from \$208,360 to \$375,000, bringing him in line with offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**, who received only a \$5,000 raise. The highest-paid defensive coordinators in the Big 12 are **WILL MUSCHAMP** (\$900,000) at Texas and **BRENT VENABLES** (\$406,600) at Oklahoma.

NEBRASKA COACHING SALARIES

COACH	POSITION	SALARY
Bo Pelini	Head coach	\$2,100,000
Shawn Watson	Offensive coordinator	\$380,000
Carl Pelini	Defensive coordinator	\$375,000
Marvin Sanders	Secondary	\$250,000
Tim Beck	Running backs	\$220,000
Ron Brown	Tight ends	\$220,000
Barney Cotton	Offensive line	\$220,000
Ted Gilmore	Wide receivers	\$220,000
Mike Ekeler	Linebackers	\$175,000
John Papuchis	Defensive ends	\$175,000

The assistant coaches can also earn \$20,000 annually based on players' academic achievement. The new contracts went into effect Feb. 1.

BIG 12 COACHING SALARIES

COACH	SCHOOL	SALARY
Mack Brown	Texas	\$5,100,000
Bob Stoops	Oklahoma	\$4,300,000
Gary Pinkel	Missouri	\$2,525,000
Mike Gundy	Oklahoma State	\$2,200,000
BO PELINI	NEBRASKA	\$2,100,000
Turner Gill	Kansas	\$2,000,000
Bill Snyder	Kansas State	\$1,850,000
Art Briles	Baylor	\$1,800,000
Mike Sherman	Texas A&M	\$1,800,000
Tommy Tuberville	Texas Tech	\$1,500,000
Paul Rhoads	Iowa State	\$1,150,000
Dan Hawkins	Colorado	\$1,100,000

SIDELINES

HE'S GOING TO SIGN WITH...

Running back **EMMITT SMITH** was among seven former players elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in February. He and wide receiver **JERRY RICE** were considered locks. Smith, a Parade magazine All-American at Escambia High in Pensacola, Fla., played collegiately at Florida but seriously considered Nebraska. He didn't announce his decision until letter-of-intent-signing day. He arrived at school wearing a Cornhusker sweatshirt, only to put on a Florida hat at the signing ceremony.

BRIEFLY

► University of Nebraska Chancellor **HARVEY PERLMAN** will serve as chairman of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors beginning at the close of the April 2010 meeting. He also is chairman of the Bowl Championship Series Presidential Oversight Committee and a member of the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors.

► **AUSTIN CASSIDY** earned first-team Academic All-District 7 recognition, while senior **WES CAMMACK**, junior **BLAKE LAWRENCE** and sophomore **MARCEL JONES** earned second-team honors. Cassidy carries a 3.84 cumulative grade-point average in psychology.



CURT TOMASEVICZ CELEBRATES AFTER WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL

LEON NEAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

OLYMPIC DREAM

Former Cornhusker **CURT TOMASEVICZ** (Catching Up With, Vol. 3, No. 3) returned from Vancouver, B.C., with an Olympic gold medal in the four-man bobsled competition. Tomasevicz and his USA-1, “Night Train,” teammates won the first U.S. gold medal in the event since 1948.

Tomasevicz was a non-recruited walk-on at Nebraska. He was his high school class valedictorian and had a Regents Scholarship. He was still practicing on the scout squad as a senior, when he got a chance to play on the No. 1 kickoff team. “There were times when I was really frustrated, but quitting has never been part of my lifestyle,” he told Huskers Illustrated (Vol. 23, No. 15).

Tomasevicz got an assist from

Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** in realizing his Olympic dream. Pelini coached the walk-on from Shelby, Neb., who played linebacker as a senior in 2003.

Even though Pelini was defensive coordinator at LSU when Tomasevicz’s hometown raised \$25,000 to help defray the cost of his bobsled training, Pelini contributed.

Tomasevicz “is a phenomenal young man,” Pelini said.

“He has tremendous work ethic and was as tough as could be when we coached him. It doesn’t surprise me one bit that he’s doing what he’s doing. He’s a pretty special young man. He played that way as a football player, and he was a great guy to have on the football team.”

SIDELINES

► Nebraska was No. 5 in an early pre-season top 25 compiled by Rivals.com in mid-February. Defending national champion Alabama was No. 1, followed by Ohio State, Boise State and Oregon. Florida was No. 6, with Texas, Iowa, Virginia Tech and TCU rounding out the top 10.

► The Cornhusker football team placed 62 players on the 2009 Big 12 Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll, which recognizes those with a 3.0 or better grade-point average. Twenty-five true freshmen were among the 62.

ANDY CHRISTENSEN made the honor roll for a 10th time, **WES CAMMACK** for a 9th time and **MATT O’HANLON** for a 7th time. All were seniors in 2009.

► Four Cornhusker football players had perfect 4.0 grade-point averages in the fall semester: sophomore safety **AUSTIN CASSIDY**, freshman offensive lineman **JESSE COFFEY**, redshirted freshman linebacker **SEAN FISHER** and junior linebacker **BLAKE LAWRENCE**.

► Nebraska athletic teams lead the Big 12 in exhausted eligibility graduation rate for a seventh consecutive year (94 percent). The Husker football team also led the conference (72 percent). Nebraska’s overall exhausted eligibility rate has improved 22 percentage points since the rating process began in 1991-92.

BY THE NUMBERS

Former Cornhusker **NDAMUKONG SUH** is considered by some analysts as likely to be the first player picked in the NFL Draft. He posted impressive numbers at the Combine in Indianapolis in early March. He was listed at just a fraction under 6-foot-4 and 307 pounds:

40-yard dash – best of two, 4.98 seconds; Bench press – (32 reps (225 pounds); Vertical jump – 35½ inches

Oklahoma's Gerald McCoy, considered Suh's top competition at defensive tackle, ran the 40 in 4.96 seconds, with 23 reps and a 30½-inch vertical jump.

HUSKERS' HIGHEST FIRST-ROUNDERS

The first NFL draft was conducted in 1936. It was held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Philadelphia. There were nine NFL teams, and nine rounds to the draft.

The second NFL draft, in 1937, included 10 rounds for nine teams, with the league also drafting players for a possible 10th expansion team – the Cleveland Rams.

Sam Francis, an All-America fullback for Nebraska in 1936, was the first player selected in the 1937 draft, by the Philadelphia Eagles. Cornhusker teammates Lloyd Cardwell and Les McDonald were the 7th and 8th players selected in the first round, by Detroit and Chicago, respectively.

Since then, 29 other Cornhuskers have been first-round NFL picks, with Irving Fryar following Francis as the first selection in 1984. Mike Rozier was the first player selected in a supplemental draft a month later in 1984. Players in the supplemental draft had already signed contracts with other professional leagues, in particular the short-lived United States Football League.

FIRST 10 PICKS (NFL)	TEAM	CAREER
Sam Francis, FB, 1937 (1)	Philadelphia	4 years
Irving Fryar, WR, 1984 (1)	New England	17 years
*Mike Rozier, RB, 1984 (1)	Houston	6 years
Bob Brown, OG, 1964 (2)	Philadelphia	10 years
Dean Steinkuhler, OG, 1984 (2)	Houston	8 years
Neil Smith, DE, 1988 (2)	Kansas City	13 years
Bruce Pickens, DB, 1991 (3)	Atlanta	6 years
Mike Croel, OLB, 1991 (4)	Denver	7 years
John Dutton, DT, 1974 (5)	Baltimore	14 years
Trev Alberts, OLB, 1994 (5)	Indianapolis	3 years
Broderick Thomas, OLB, 1989 (6)	Tampa Bay	10 years
Lawrence Phillips, RB, 1996 (6)	St. Louis	4 years
Grant Wistrom, RE, 1998 (6)	St. Louis	9 years
Lloyd Cardwell, HB, 1937 (7)	Detroit	7 years
Junior Miller, TE, 1980 (7)	Atlanta	6 years
Les McDonald, E, 1937 (8)	Chicago	4 years

*supplemental draft

2010 DRAFT

1ST ROUND DRAFT ORDER

#	TEAM
1.	St. Louis (1-15)
2.	Detroit (2-14)
3.	Tampa Bay (3-13)
4.	Washington (4-12)
5.	Kansas City (4-12)
6.	Seattle (5-11)
7.	Cleveland (5-11)
8.	Oakland (5-11)
9.	Buffalo (6-10)
10.	Jacksonville (7-9)
11.	Denver – from Chicago (7-9)
12.	Miami (7-9)
13.	San Francisco (8-8)
14.	Seattle – from Denver (8-8)
15.	New York Giants (8-8)
16.	Tennessee (8-8)
17.	San Francisco – (from Carolina) (8-8)
18.	Pittsburgh (9-7)
19.	Atlanta (9-7)
20.	Houston (9-7)
21.	Cincinnati (10-6)
22.	New England (10-6)
23.	Green Bay (11-5)
24.	Philadelphia (11-5)
25.	Baltimore (9-7)
26.	Arizona (10-6)
27.	Dallas (11-5)
28.	San Diego (13-3)
29.	New York Jets (9-7)
30.	Minnesota (12-4)
31.	Indianapolis (14-2)
32.	New Orleans (13-3)

Coaching stability a Husker trademark

Nebraska will be among only 12 major colleges to go into the 2010 season with its football coaching staff intact for a third consecutive year. “No question it makes a big difference on the field and in the meeting room,” coach **BO PELINI** said in a release prior to letter-of-intent-signing day. “We have a good feel for each other, how we want to manage practice, in-game adjustments, you name it. Keeping this staff together also has a great benefit in recruiting and for the kids in our program. It is important for our players to see the same face when they walk into their meeting rooms from year to year.”

During his 25 seasons as coach, **TOM OSBORNE** had 12 assistant coaches who spent at least 10 years on his staff, and he had just 27 different assistant coaches. **BOB DEVANEY** had five full-time assistants who were with him all 11 of his seasons at Nebraska, among only 12 full-time assistants total.

Barring something unforeseen, of course, the other schools with staffs remaining intact for a third consecutive season will include Baylor and Texas from the Big 12 as well at Indiana, Iowa, Navy, North Carolina State, Penn State, UAB, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest.

“Several of our assistant coaches have had opportunities

elsewhere, so we are fortunate they have all stayed at Nebraska,” Athletic Director Tom Osborne said in a release.

According to newspaper reports, new Tennessee head coach **DEREK DOOLEY** contacted defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** about coordinating the Volunteers’ defense. “I love working with Bo (Pelini). That’s all I’m going to say about it,” **CARL PELINI** told the Lincoln Journal Star.

BOB’S STAFF

BOB DEVANEY brought four assistants with him from Wyoming and kept two assistants from the staff of **BILL JENNINGS**, his predecessor: **CLETE FISCHER** and **GEORGE KELLY**. **TOM OSBORNE** was an unpaid graduate assistant his first two seasons.

BOB’S STAFF

COACH	YEARS	COACH	YEARS
*Jim Ross	1962-72	Monte Kiffin	1967-76
*John Melton	1962-72	Warren Powers.....	1967-76
*Mike Corgan	1962-72	Jim Walden	1971-72
*Carl Selmer	1962-72	Bill Thornton.....	1971-72
Clete Fischer	1962-72	Bill Myles	1972
George Kelly	1962-68	*Came with Devaney from Wyoming	
Tom Osborne	1964-72		



Back row (L-R): Clete Fischer, Rick Duval, Monte Kiffin, Tom Osborne, Bill Myles, Jim Ross, George Darlington. **Front row (L-R):** Warren Powers, Jim Anderson, Mike Corgan, Guy Ingles, Jerry Moore, John Melton.



Bob Devaney's 1971 national championship team is considered one the best in college football history. And his assistants were a significant factor in that success. Five of them (*) went on to coach at the major college level. Six, counting Tom Osborne, were with Devaney throughout his time at Nebraska. (Standing, from left): Mike Corgan, Jim Ross, *Monte Kiffin, *Jim Walden, *Osborne, John Melton, Devaney (Seated from left): *Carl Selmer, *Warren Powers, Bill Thornton, Clete Fischer

TOM'S STAFF

TOM OSBORNE retained seven full-time assistants when he succeeded **BOB DEVANEY** as head coach in 1973. The first assistant he hired was **JERRY MOORE**, who replaced him as quarterbacks and wide receivers coach. Osborne committed to Moore's hiring for the 1972 season. Devaney originally planned to retire as coach and focus on athletic director duties after the 1971 season but was persuaded to coach one more season in an attempt to win an unprecedented third consecutive national championship.

Because of Devaney's change in plans, Moore, who had been an assistant to Hayden Fry at SMU, had to ask Fry if he could have his job back and remain at SMU for one more season.

GEORGE DARLINGTON was the second assistant Osborne hired.

TOM'S STAFF

COACH	YEARS
#John Melton	1973-88
#Clete Fischer	1973-85
#Mike Corgan	1973-82
Jim Ross	1973-76
Warren Powers	1973-76
Monte Kiffin	1973-76
Bill Myles	1973-76
#George Darlington	1973-97
Jerry Moore	1973-78
Rick Duval	1973-74
#Milt Tenopir	1974-97
Guy Ingles	1976-78
#Charlie McBride	1977-97
#Gene Huey	1977-86
Lance Van Zandt	1977-80
#Frank Solich	1979-97
#Jack Pierce	1979-91
Jake Cabell	1979
Pat Fischer	1979
Jerry Pettibone	1980-81
Bob Thornton	1981-85
#Dan Young	1985-97
#Tony Samuel	1986-96
#Ron Brown	1987-97
Kevin Steele	1989-94
Turner Gill	1992-97
Craig Bohl	1995-97
#With Osborne 10 or more years	

ALL-TIME HUSKER ASSISTANTS

Staff stability was a significant factor during the Bob Devaney-Tom Osborne era. The longest tenured assistants all time worked under Devaney or Osborne or both. Clete Fischer was a Cornhusker assistant for both, as well as for Devaney's predecessor, Bill Jennings.



COACH (TOTAL YRS)..... YEARS

George Darlington (30)	1973-02
Milt Tenopir (29)	1974-02
Clete Fischer (27)	1959-85
John Melton (27)	1962-88
Charlie McBride (23)	1977-99
Mike Corgan (21)	1962-82
Dan Young (20)	1983-02
Frank Solich (19)	1979-97
Ron Brown (19)	1987-03, 2008-present
Jim Ross (15)	1962-76



N

SIDNEY, NE



JON MCWILLIAMS and CHARLES BRYANT

were the first African-American lettermen at Nebraska in the modern era. Bryant, a year older, was from south Omaha. McWilliams was from Sidney.

They were recruited by coach **BILL GLASSFORD**. McWilliams attracted recruiting interest from several black schools in the south as well as from

Wyoming, where Bowden Wyatt was the coach.

But McWilliams he was eager to go to Nebraska.

For one thing, **ART BAUER** was a coach at Sidney High School his senior year, and Bauer had been a three-year Cornhusker football letterman. For another, McWilliams had grown up following Nebraska's football fortunes on the radio, with **LYELL BREMSER** describing the action.

McWilliams would listen to the games and then imagine himself doing things Bremser had described when playing with his neighborhood buddies. It didn't matter that Glassford wasn't offering him a scholarship. Glassford did, however, offer him an opportunity to earn one.

At the time, there weren't NCAA rules restricting financial aid for athletes. So folks in Sidney stepped up. His first year at Nebraska, people in Sidney covered his expenses.

McWilliams, who also competed in track and field, began his Cornhusker career as a halfback but moved to end late in his junior season, the week before a game against Pittsburgh.

He started the 1955 Orange Bowl game at end.

Though he, Bryant and **SYLVESTER HARRIS**, an African-American from Kansas City, Mo., had to deal with racism when the Cornhuskers went on the road, he was accepted at Nebraska.

Some of his friends from Sidney came to Nebraska, too (though not to play football), and that helped in the transition. And his experience was that Glassford treated everyone the same.

Glassford was a disciplinarian, whose militaristic ways led to a player revolt and petitions calling for his dismissal. He survived, however, and changed, only to walk away after the 1955 season.

After the revolt, "he was one of the best people you'd ever want to meet, one of the best coaches I've ever had," McWilliams said at a 1955 Orange Bowl team reunion years later.

Spring football practice was every day and lasted a month or so back then.

"That was one of the things we kind of dreaded, spring football," said McWilliams.

SIDNEY, NE

County: Cheyenne (county seat)

Population: 6,499 (July 2008)

Distance from Lincoln: 350 miles

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Robert Ackerman, HB (1947)
Jack Dedrick, QB (1944)
Lawrence Humphrey, OT (1976)
Larry Jones, G (1956)
Jon McWilliams, E (1953-54-55)
John O'Connell, S (1972)
Mike O'Holleran, FB (1973)

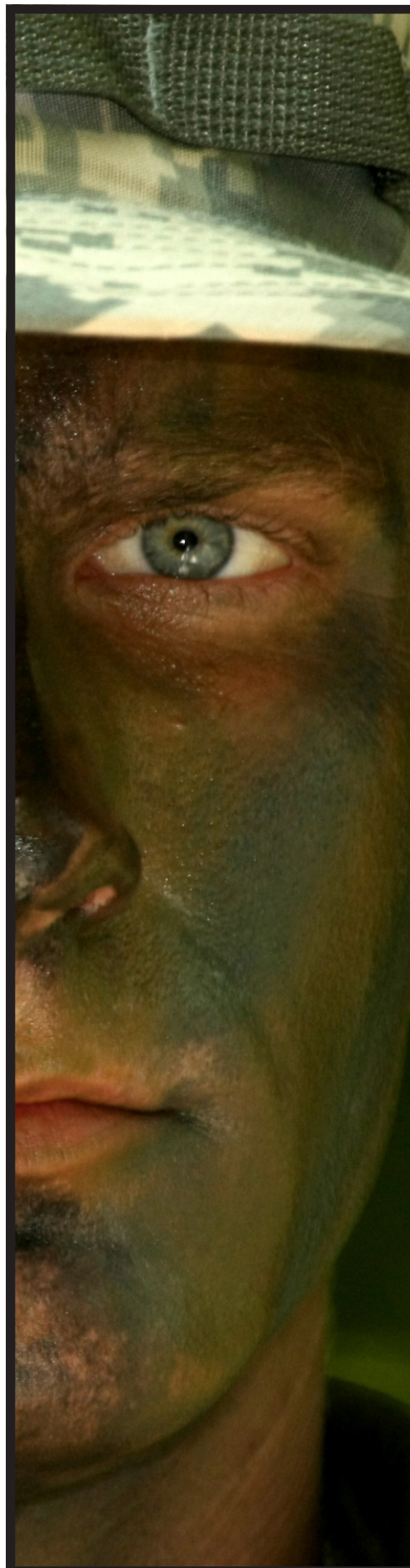
DID YOU KNOW?

► Sidney was an outfitting stop during the Black Hills Gold Rush in the mid-1870s. Gold shipments from the Dakota Territory arrived daily in Sidney.

► During the Gold Rush, the "lure of easy money made Sidney a rendezvous for desperate characters" from all over the United States, according to the Cheyenne County Genealogical Society. Sidney was home to the "Gentleman Gamblers."

► Fort Sidney was built to protect those working on the transcontinental Union Pacific railroad. Troops stationed at the fort fought in the Battle of Wounded Knee.

► Headquarters for Cabela's, a direct-marketer and retailer of outdoor recreation merchandise and tourist attraction, are located in Sidney.





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NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD 



Brandon Kinnie

6-3, 215, Junior, Wide Receiver, Kansas City, Mo.

HI: What was your biggest adjustment coming to Nebraska last season from junior college?

KINNIE: The speed of the game, just playing faster. You really can't play fast if you don't know the playbook, and of course the playbook is different at the Division I level. Some people expected me to come in and automatically get it, but it didn't happen like that. It took time, and it was a process. That was the biggest deal.

HI: What was your focus, personally, during winter conditioning?

KINNIE: Just getting bigger, faster and stronger. Just focusing more on the ball, and coming out this spring and having a good, big spring.

HI: As a player growing up, after whom did you try to pattern your game?

KINNIE: I guess if anybody, you could say Terrell Owens, but not in his attitude way. Just his physical stature, just how physical he is, and how big and fast he plays. I don't really have one, but I guess you could say him.

HI: Who's the best defensive back you've ever faced, at any level?

KINNIE: Coryell Judie. He plays for Texas A&M now, and he went to my junior college, and he's the best corner I've ever seen, going up against practice-wise, or played against. He medical redshirted (last) year with a shoulder. I've never seen a corner so athletic. He was about 6-foot, 190 pounds and he was a 4.3 (seconds, 40-yard dash) guy, but he could jump. I say that, and you think that a whole lot of corners could do that, but he was just so athletic. He played bigger than what he was. He's just the most talented guy I've ever met as a defensive back.

HI: How do you spend your time away from football?

KINNIE: Just relaxing, sitting back with my family and my son. That's the biggest part when I come home. I try to spend as much time as I can with my son, because I'm not with him and stuff like that during school and workouts and stuff. So that's a big thing when I come home.

HI: If you were not playing football, what sport would you play?

KINNIE: Basketball. It's just always been second-nature to me. If I wasn't playing football, I was playing basketball, and if I wasn't doing basketball, I was playing football. It's just something that's always been around and a part of me.

HI: What's your most memorable athletic achievement?

KINNIE: I think winning the bowl game. I think winning the bowl game was the biggest one so far. That was almost surreal for me. I ain't ever been to anything like that, coming from the junior college level. When you go to stuff like that, it's just like you never thought it would happen, just because of where you came from, where you were born and raised and brought up. To work for it, it's just a true blessing.

HI: On the other hand, what's your most embarrassing athletic experience?

KINNIE: I guess I could say when I was 9, I was playing quarterback, and all of the defensive guys were coming at me, and I just slid. I didn't try to take a sack or get tackled or anything. I just slid.

HI: What's your favorite movie?

KINNIE: There's a lot of them. I'd probably just say "Love and Basketball."

HI: What's the last book you read?

KINNIE: Man, I can't even remember. I'm not even going to lie to you.



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Will Shields

Teaching young kids how to train and grow



WHEN WILL SHIELDS won perhaps the highest honor that the National Football League can bestow on one of its own – the NFL Man of the Year – he knew immediately that the award wasn't about him. It was about everyone around him and how they all pulled together to make something meaningful and memorable happen in Kansas City.

For Shields, life after football is no different. He still preaches that his work goes way beyond what he brings to the table. But even the greatest teammate would concede that it takes someone special to operate the businesses that keep Shields busy year-round.

One is called 68 Inside Sports Health and Wellness. The other is called 68 Inside Sports Indoor Training Facility. Together they're a gym/fitness center/health and wellness/sports and recreation training center in Kansas City, where Shields followed his All-America and Outland Trophy-winning Nebraska career with a franchise-record 12 consecutive Pro Bowls with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Shields started the last 36 games of

his Nebraska career and set a Chiefs' franchise record with 224 consecutive starts. He was considered an iconic iron man, but he's always insisted his consistency is merely a reflection of what he learned how to do on a daily basis at Nebraska – practice hard, prepare well and equip yourself to be the best you can be with whatever skills you have.

Essentially, he is now teaching those same competitive life skills to countless young people in a city that still holds him in the highest regard. One of his businesses is in a 70,000 square-foot building, and the other business is in a 50,000 square-foot building.

"We even have our own in-house, state-certified chiropractor," Shields said. "We have batting cages, a big indoor football field and a giant weight room. We have more than 2,000 members, and we're a combination of a lot of different things I believe in.

"At Nebraska, I loved to train and to grow, and I enjoy helping young kids learn how to train and grow," he said. "I enjoy watching them find their strengths

WILL SHIELDS

LETTERS: 1989-92

CURRENT: Owns two business - 68 Inside Sports Health and Wellness & 68 Inside Sports Indoor Training Facility

WIFE: Senia

CHILDREN: Daughter Sanayika, 17; sons Shavon, 15 and Solomon, 12

RESIDENCE: Overland Park, Kan.

and then develop them. I would love to add vocal music and the theatrical arts to what we offer and maybe even an academic center, so we can teach kids how to study."

One thing is certain. "Nebraska was my model for all-inclusive growth," Shields said. "Nebraska went way beyond sports, and that's what I'm trying to do with both of my businesses. I love it when kids open their eyes to different things they can do."

Shields achieved similar success with his Will to Succeed Foundation, which was the catalyst for his becoming the NFL Man of the Year. No wonder Kansas City puts him on the same pedestal that Nebraska fans do. **N**

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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Yori's success has been a steady progression

HER NEBRASKA women's basketball team had just finished an 18-1 flurry to produce a 16-point win at Oklahoma - a result that clinched the Huskers' first Big 12 Conference championship.

What's more, with three games left in the regular-season NU still was unbeaten.

This surreal scene would cause even a casual fan to wonder how it's all happened.

How did Connie Yori channel tears of eight years ago -- when she often questioned why she took the Nebraska job -- into guiding the Huskers to their third NCAA Tournament in the past four seasons? And not only that, but as a No. 1 seed -- a spot annually reserved for the Connecticut's and Tennessee's of the world.

Yori in 2002 had left a secure and healthy situation at Creighton to see if she could cut it against some of the top coaches in the country in a league that was fast becoming the nation's toughest.

She inherited a program that Paul Sanderford had steered into the NCAA Tournament his first three seasons but then had finished 10th and 11th in the Big 12 in his fourth and fifth years.

The cupboard was so bare that Yori held tryouts for her first squad. Not surprisingly, Nebraska finished with an 8-20 record that included a 1-15, last-place mark in the Big 12.

But from her very first recruiting class - when she snagged Kiera Hardy, a point guard out of Kansas City, Mo., who

would go on to be a three-time first-team all-Big 12 selection and WNBA draft pick, and power forward Chelsea Aubry, a Canadian star who started three seasons for the Huskers - it became clear that Yori was a coup for then-athletic director Bill Byrne.

Her second team made the WNIT and finished with 18 wins. The next two also landed in the WNIT after going 8-8 in league play.

In 2006-07, NU went 21-10 in the regular season, finished in a tie for fourth in the Big 12 and returned to the NCAA Tournament.

Five of Yori's first six recruiting classes produced at least two players who would have a huge impact to NU's rise.

Major contributors to the 2007 NCAA Tournament team, which lost a down-to-the-wire, first-round contest to Temple, came from four different classes. Same thing held true of the '08 team that beat Xavier in an NCAA Tournament opener and then gave No. 1 seed Maryland all it wanted on its home court in the second round.

Yori's second batch of recruits included forward Danielle Page, a Coloradan who made a WNBA roster briefly last season. The third class brought in Alaskan forward Kelsey Griffin -- who's become a three-time, first-team all-league performer and will leave as the most-rounded player in program history.

Cory Montgomery, a forward from Minnesota who's one of eight players

at NU to produce 1,300 points and 600 rebounds, came the next year and played regular minutes as a freshman. In her class was Bellevue guard Vonnie Turner, who's been a three-year starter, three-time Big 12 All-Defensive Team pick and 1,000-point scorer, and two guards who have played key roles off the bench, Kala Kuhlman from Iowa and Nicole Neals from Arizona.

Prior to 2007-08, Nebraska added Dominique Kelley, a guard out of Lincoln (Neb.) Northeast who's started every game of her career, and athletic center Catheryn Redmon, a Texan who this season set the school record for blocks by a junior even though she's averaged less than 16 minutes a game.

Yet another key piece came before this season in the form of Covington, Wash., point guard Lindsey Moore, who's started every game and was selected to the Big 12 All-Freshman Team.

Last season was supposed to be the Huskers' big year. They had 11-of-13 players returning. But when Griffin and center Nikki Bober got hurt, they did well to make the WNIT.

Though unranked to start this season, it became apparent early that, with Griffin determined to lead like never before, Nebraska was headed back to the NCAA Tournament.

Still, to imagine the Huskers would become the 14th NCAA Division I team to produce a perfect regular season...well, that's beyond imagination. **N**

Capitalizing on the "Suh-nami"

BY SEAN STEVENS

While Nebraska has plenty of promising young defensive tackles on the roster already, a program can never have too many talented big men. Looking to capitalize on **NDAMUKONG SUH**'s amazing 2009 season; NU is hot on the trails of many of the prospects in the 2011 recruiting class.

TODD PEAT, JR. (6-3, 300) of Tempe, Ariz., is a member of the Rivals250 to Watch. He currently holds seven written offers, including Arizona, Arizona State and Stanford. He recently listed his top three schools, and Nebraska was in the group.

"Stanford is probably at the top, but I will throw Nebraska and ASU right up there with them," Peat said. "Location is not going to be a big factor to me; it's going to be more about how I feel about the situation and the coaches and having a chance to come in and compete right away. Being able to play right away is the most important factor for me."

Peat, who plans to be in Lincoln for the Huskers' spring game, watched the Blackshirts closely in 2009.

"I love what they did this year, with Ndamukong Suh and everything. I know they're going to reload this year, and when I would get in there, if that ends up being the place I want to go, I might have a chance of competing early. I love what they're doing at Nebraska."

MICKY JOHNSON (6-1, 305) of Covington, La., lists LSU, Tennessee and Texas A&M among his 18 scholarship offers. Despite living in Louisiana and visiting LSU this spring, Johnson says that he's open to everyone.



TODD PEAT, JR.

"I wouldn't say that I have a favorite at all," Johnson said. "Everyone is equal to me. I could go anywhere to play in college. My dad was in the navy, so we've lived in California, Louisiana and Florida."

Johnson's high school coach, Ken Sears, gushes about him.

"I've been here for 20 years, the last 12 as head coach, and he's probably one of the best players we've ever had. He has tremendous strength. I just watched him break his own record at the state powerlifting meet when he did 450 pounds in the bench. He squatted 610 and dead lifted 500 and stopped because nobody was close to him."

QUINCY RUSSELL (6-3, 280) of San Antonio, Texas, holds offers from Oklahoma, Texas and Texas A&M among his nine tenders. He is also expecting to be at the Red-White game.

"Nebraska isn't too far away for me. It's a good school that came up a lot this

year, and they'll probably be better next season. They had a good recruiting class, and, though they're losing some good seniors, they have some good players coming back. They could very well make a run at the conference championship again."

TAKING ANOTHER QB

Nebraska has a verbal commitment from Arlington, Texas, dual-threat quarterback **JAMAL TURNER**, one of the most sought-after prospects in the 2011 class. Despite Turner's pledge, the Husker staff has learned the hard way that commitments don't always translate into signatures in February (see **JOSH FREEMAN**, **BLAINE GABBERT**; **TYLER GABBERT**).

It appears that Nebraska will take the dual-threat route, and **KIEHL FRAZIER** (6-3, 212) of Springdale, Ark., a member of the Rivals250 to Watch, is near the top of the list. Holding offers from a host of

college programs including Florida, LSU, and Miami, Frazier plans to visit Lincoln for the spring game.

“We’re definitely very interested in Nebraska. I think that **BO PELINI** and that group of guys he has with him are going to get Nebraska back to what we’ve always considered Nebraska – one of the top programs in the country,” said Frazier’s father, **PAT BEACH**.

BRETT HUNDLEY (6-4, 210) of Chandler, Ariz., lists offers from around the Pac-10 as well as Colorado and plans to be at the Red-White game after a conversation with **SHAWN WATSON**.

“He just said they got to watch the film and they really liked me. And he hopes I come down and check out the spring game. He said they had 85,000 people there (in years past), so that’s pretty cool.”

BUBBA STARLING (6-5, 190) of Gardner, Kan., is another member of that Rivals250 to Watch. Alabama recently joined Notre Dame among Starling’s other suitors. Also a top baseball prospect, Starling visited Nebraska’s February junior day.

“It was good going up there and meeting all of the coaching staff. Getting to take a tour of all the facilities, it was fun,” Starling said. “Like I want to find out with every college that I go and visit I want to play baseball, too. So I talked to coach (Shawn) Watson and a tiny bit about that with (coach Bo) Pelini about the situation. (Pelini) said, ‘You have got to have a plan,’ and he said ‘I’m sure you can do it; you’re a special player.’ ”

CONFIRMED SPRING GAME VISITORS

NAME	POS.	HT	WT	STATUS
Dylan Admire	OL	6-3	264	NU COMMIT
Anthony Chickillo	DE	6-3	226	OFFERED
Alex Dixon	DB	6-1	185	–
Jalen Grimble	DL	6-4	255	OFFERED
Aaron Green	RB	5-11	178	OFFERED
Rob Hankins	LB	6-2	219	OFFERED
Brett Hundley	QB	6-4	210	OFFERED
Tyler Moore	OL	6-6	290	NU COMMIT
Todd Peat Jr.	DL	6-2	300	OFFERED
Ryne Reeves	OL	6-3	290	NU COMMIT
Quincy Russell	DT	6-3	280	OFFERED
Anthony Sarao	LB	6-0	210	OFFERED
Robert Standard	RB	5-10	173	OFFERED
Jamal Turner	QB	6-1	173	NU COMMIT
Christian Westerman	OL	6-5	288	OFFERED
Kevin Williams	DT	6-3	275	OFFERED



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Hastings St. Cecelia offensive lineman **ZACH STERUP** has emerged as one of the top 2011 prospects in Nebraska. The 6-foot-9, 260-pound Sterup already holds offers from Iowa and Ohio. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Sterup for this issue’s in-state spotlight.

CALLAHAN: What will it be? Basketball or football for you at the next level? I know you’ll play for the Nebraska Bison AAU program this summer.

STERUP: I’ll probably have an idea here soon. Playing for the Bison program is just a great experience playing and competing. I really like to do that. There’s not really a better opportunity. You go to California and Las Vegas. There’s not too many times you get to go out there and compete, so I might as well take advantage of it.

CALLAHAN: How surprised were you when you got your first football scholarship offer from Iowa?

STERUP: I was real surprised. I really never thought of football as an option for me after high school until I started getting contacted for football by Iowa. That just opened up a whole new window. I’m real excited about it now and that’s probably what I’m going to try and pursue. I might still play basketball though. Recruiting for basketball will probably start to pick up here.

CALLAHAN: In the state championship basketball game you played through some pretty serious illness. What was wrong?

STERUP: The doctors were actually not sure what was wrong. They just diagnosed me with a viral infection. They don’t know really what type it is. We’re still seeing if some blood work coming back is positive for some stuff. They said they probably won’t find out though, because they said it could be a rare strand of a virus that just affected me differently than most people. I kind of took 10 days off from physical activity because I could barely walk. The day after the championship game I was in the hospital and I was drained. I’m almost back to normal and the doctor said I should get it all back with time.

CALLAHAN: When do you hope to have a decision made?

STERUP: I would like to have a decision before the football season, but I can’t give you a specific date right now. Anything could happen. I just want to remain open to all possibilities. My last offer could be where I go. I’m not set in stone at all right now. I’m just seeing what comes to me.

CALLAHAN: How does a 6-9, 260-pound guy find clothes that fit in Hastings?

STERUP: I don’t have that big of feet. I’m a size 15, but I usually have to order all of my shoes. But with clothes, when we find them we usually buy it. It’s pretty hard to find my size, especially in dress clothes. I guess it’s a hassle, but my mom takes pretty good care of me.




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THE HUSKER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATES AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2010 BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.
PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

thing to worry about.SM
(Even at Tourney Time)

Huskers get fourth commitment

by Mike Matya

The positive momentum continues to build for Nebraska's recruiting class of 2011. In late February, Overland Park, Kan., Blue Valley West offensive lineman **DYLAN ADMIRE** gave his verbal pledge to the Husker staff while attending NU's junior day.

"Coach Bo Pelini talked to me and during that conversation I committed to Nebraska," Admire said. "I'm really proud to be a Cornhusker. I've seen a lot of great schools in the last few weeks and met a lot of great coaches, and Nebraska was the place for me to reach my full potential academically and obviously on the football field.

"I talked with my coaches and my parents, and after a lot of conversation and thinking, I just thought Nebraska is the place for me. Also, both my grandparents graduated from Nebraska and I have family that lives up in Lincoln. I think all of those things combined finalized my decision."

It was the second time the 6-foot-4, 270-pound Admire had visited Lincoln in the new year. He had previously visited Nebraska a couple days after the Feb. 3



signing day for the class of 2010, and he went home with a Nebraska offer in hand.

It was his first offer. After that he acquired a scholarship from Kansas. Admire was also receiving interest from Kansas State, Iowa State, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois, Notre Dame, Stanford, UCLA, Duke and Washington.

As a junior, Admire was listed as the top performer at the Ultimate 100 Camp, and he made the National Underclassmen Combine All-Combine team. He was also named first-team All-East Kansas League, and he earned honorable mention all-state

honors for all classes from the Wichita and Topeka papers.

Blue Valley West head coach, Scott Wright, had some lofty praise for his talented lineman.

"We've had some good ones come through here, but Dylan is probably the best player we've had at our high school," Coach Wright explained. "Dylan has a great understanding of leverage; he has a great first step, and he's a pretty good finisher.

"He's a kid that's prepared himself and worked very hard in the weight room. He's really physical at his size. He can stand flat-footed and go straight up and dunk a basketball. He's a very athletic kid, very athletic."

Admire joins **RYNE REEVES** of Crete, Neb., and **TYLER MOORE** of Clearwater, Fla., Countryside to form an already impressive offensive line group for the Huskers' next recruiting class. **N**

2011 Nebraska Commitment List ()

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Dylan Admire	OL	6-2	264	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley West)
Tyler Moore	OL	6-6	290	Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
Ryne Reeves	OL	6-3	286	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
Jamal Turner	QB	6-1	173	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Nebraska targeting Florida for recruits

MOMENTUM IS defined as the “strength of force gained by motion or through the development of events.”

It's safe to say in terms of recruiting, Nebraska has plenty of momentum. The spring game may be the first clear sign of that momentum on the recruiting trail.

Look at the start to the 2011 class – four commits, including dynamic dual-threat quarterback Jamal Turner from Arlington, Texas, and the highly touted offensive linemen Tyler Moore from Clearwater, Florida. Not to mention, Ryne Reeves from Crete, Neb., is on board, and Overland Park, Kan., lineman Dylan Admire rounds out the impressive start up front.

In terms of the “development of events” to cause this momentum, All-American Ndamukong Suh cleaning up the awards and getting mentioned during numerous promos for the NFL draft doesn't hurt either. Defensive line recruits such as Kevin Williams from Ohio or Todd Peat Jr. from Arizona are well aware of what Suh did while in his senior year at Nebraska.

Williams has Nebraska in his top two along with Michigan State. Good start there.

Any defensive lineman who picked up a Husker offer in the last several months is highly interested in possibly playing under the same coaching staff that helped Suh be one of the most dominant defensive tackles in college football history.

Finishing the season with a 33-0 shutout of Arizona, which included an offensive

performance that was much different than the final games of the regular season and the Big 12 championship, didn't hurt. And no one was surprised by a dominating defensive effort, either. It also doesn't leave a lot of surprise that the Huskers have a pre-season top 10 ranking by virtually every major publication.

Ok, so we're aware the Huskers have momentum heading into the spring and fall. It should also be clear that momentum is spilling over into recruiting in a huge way.

The spring game may be the symbol of just how far things have come under head coach Bo Pelini and company.

The current confirmed visitor list already would make past years look extremely pale in comparison. We're still a little under a month away from the actual game, so the list is bound to grow.

Top running back target Aaron Green plans to make the game. Green has been a long-time target for the Huskers. Really, ever since his brother Andrew Green signed in the class of 2009, fans have been looking at the younger Green to follow his older brother to Lincoln. There is no question the Huskers are in a very good spot leading up to when he visits for that April 17 Red-White game, which will be his second stop at the annual scrimmage going back to last year.

Green has been getting calls from Husker quarterback commit Turner and even Moore, as well.

Speaking of another player that Moore

has been working on, top Arizona offensive lineman Christian Westerman is also planning to make the game.

If you want to look at carrying over momentum in the last few months, ever since the Huskers landed the commitment of Moore and at the end of the 2010 class, quarterback Brion Carnes, the Sunshine State has been a big priority on the recruiting trail. The Huskers have sent out numerous offers to Florida prospects and a few of those targets plan to make the trip. Defensive end Anthony Chickillo said that he's trying to make the Red-White game, and Alex Dixon, a defensive back and teammate of Moore, is also planning on being in Lincoln.

So will the Huskers land a host of commits during the weekend? Maybe a few should be expected, but the spring game, in reality, is more about NU setting itself up for the fall. Many of these prospects have offer sheets a mile long and will obviously want to compare several schools as they work their way into the fall. However, very few schools can simulate a game-day experience in the middle of April like Nebraska can.

It's a rare opportunity and the NU coaching staff is obviously putting in the work to keep things moving.

It's about keeping the momentum going.

With the looks of things, the next thing I write about will be momentum heading into the camp season, with maybe even a few more commits to discuss. **N**

By Mike Babcock

5 Questions

The Unanswered Get Answered

We've been here before, heard the same thing, in March of 2009 as well as in March of 2008. Bo Pelini's message to reporters before the start of spring football practice hasn't changed.

"This is not a time to be talking about the depth chart," he said during a news conference on the day before the first of 15 spring practices. "The depth chart isn't worth the paper that it's on.

"We're not going to answer depth-chart questions."

Well, actually, by "we" he meant his assistant coaches.

"The only person that will answer depth-chart questions is myself," Pelini said.

And his answer will be the same: "That's not for this time of year."

Depth-chart watching is among the joys of spring for fans and reporters. Who will step in for departed seniors? Which young players are ready to make their presence felt?

"I know everybody's curious about the safety position, the quarterback position, wherever else there may be," said

Pelini. "But there's a long time coming, a lot of guys for jobs.

"Our job right now, through the spring, is to develop our guys every single practice and the off-days when we're in meetings and to get our guys taught. That's what this time of year is for."

Competition is the order of the day, with the results reflected in the fall.

"So you guys can talk about it all you want. We as a staff . . . I will talk about it; no one else will talk about it. I wanted to make sure we got that straight right off the bat," Pelini said.

OK, let's begin with five (of many) depth-chart questions to answer, in no particular order.



1

Will Crick Be The Face of the Defense?

Defense characterized

Nebraska last season.

And All-America tackle Ndamukong Suh, the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner (and other awards) winner, characterized the defense.

Big Suh was the face of the program. Now he's gone. And the program needs a new face, which could be that of Jared Crick, a junior-to-be from Cozad, Neb.

Despite playing in

Suh's considerable shadow, Crick established himself among the best defensive tackles in the Big 12, earning first-team all-conference recognition from the coaches.

Like Suh, Crick hasn't

been much into talking about himself. Late last season, defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said when asked about how Crick was handling the attention: "I don't know.

Did you ever see the Geico caveman commercials? One-word answers. He's monosyllabic, one syllable.

"If it gets beyond one syllable, he's stretching it. Sometimes, he'll open up but not very often. Pretty much 'yup' is all I get from him most of the time."



2

Who Will Emerge at Quarterback?

Incumbent

quarterback Zac Lee, who started all but two games last season, will likely miss the spring, leaving Cody Green to compete with Kody Spano, Taylor Martinez and Ron Kellogg. Green started twice. Spano missed last season with a second ACL injury. And Martinez and Kellogg redshirted.

Despite Lee's being sidelined, the situation at quarterback is "great," said Pelini. "We have a lot of depth. We have a lot of talent. And we've got the



guys (coaches) to get them taught.”

Unlike Pelini’s first two springs at Nebraska, with the possible exception of Spano, quarterbacks won’t wear green no-contact jerseys. “It’s football. It’s a physical game. They’re not going to be out there put in tackling drills or anything like that. But they’re going to get hit,” Pelini said.

Even though Spano has recovered, and doesn’t want to wear a knee brace, he will probably wear a green jersey. “I guess that’s just for the head coach’s peace of mind,” said Pelini.

3

Which Redshirted Freshmen Will Assert Themselves?

The roster includes 31 freshmen coming off redshirts, 13 of them scholarship recruits, none more discussed than Martinez, whom recruiting analysts classified as an “athlete” coming out of high school in Corona, Calif. He could have fit in at wide receiver or defensive back as well as quarterback.

But there’s no uncertainty in Pelini’s mind. “He’s a multi-talented quarterback,

and has a lot to bring to the table,” the coach said. “He’s a quarterback, period, end of story.

“This guy is a tremendous talent, and we’re looking forward to getting him taught. He’s got a long way to go as a quarterback, so it’s not the time or place to mess around with moving him here and moving him there because he’s a quarterback and he needs development as a quarterback.”

In a little over a minute’s worth of comment on Martinez, Pelini used “quarterback” seven times.

Never mind that he played some wide receiver on the scout team last season.

“We use a lot of guys in scout-team situations and different places to give us the best picture and do some things,” said Pelini. “Like I said, he’s a multi-talented guy. This guy’s an explosive athlete and can bring a lot of things to the table. In the end, all along the way, we knew he was a quarterback.”

That was reference No. 7 to a player who will wear a No. 3 jersey.

Several other redshirted freshmen should be in the thick of things by spring’s

4

Is Thenarse His Old Self?

As Pelini suggested, folks are curious about the safety positions following the departure of Larry Asante, first-team All-Big 12, and Matt O’Hanlon. Rickey Thenarse, who was in the regular rotation and started five games in 2008, is back in the mix after missing last season with a knee injury.

“I think he’s ready to go. I think he’s done everything he needs to do up to this point to allow himself to get out there and compete,” said Pelini. “We’ll see how he comes back, but I think physically he’s doing real well. The training staff and doctors have done a great job with him.”

Competition should be spirited not just at safety but at cornerback as well, with a lot of experienced players (13 letterman defensive backs, to be exact), including Prince Amukamara, Eric Hagg, DeJon Gomes, Alfonzo Dennard, Anthony West, P.J. Smith, Lance Thorell and Anthony Blue.

“We have a lot of depth and a number of different guys who can step up,” Pelini said. “The way we play, we need a lot of depth in that area. I feel

great about our defensive backfield.”

5

What Will The Offensive Line Look Like?

Even though four starters return and two-year back-up center Mike Caputo played well enough to earn a scholarship before his sophomore season, the line could undergo some changes.

Several young players will be competing for time in the fall. Qvale and Sirles might well have played as true freshmen if not for injuries. Pensick, who’s coming off a redshirt, has moved over from defense. And junior college transfer Jermarcus Hardrick enrolled for second semester.

In addition, senior-to-be Mike Smith, the starting left tackle the past two seasons, “is going to play a number of different positions on the offensive line,” Pelini said. “We’re going to look at him at center and maybe even, possibly, some guard. But he’ll still be out there are tackle some.

“This is a time of year to tinker with things and make sure . . . also give other guys opportunities.”

History has shown that as the line goes so goes the offense. No great insight there. But Nebraska’s offense didn’t go very well most of last season and needs to pick up the pace as it evolves.

“We have more depth than we’ve had, so it gives us a little more versatility,” said Pelini. ♦

Spring Preview



AARON BABCOCK

GETTING PHYSICAL

Physicallity has been a recurrent theme under **BO PELINI**, and spring practices were going to be physical. That much was a given, even for the quarterbacks.

Injuries are always a concern during the spring, or any time for that matter.

“But in the end, it’s a contact sport,” said Pelini.

Injuries are less likely to occur “when guys are going 100 miles an hour and they’re going after each other and they’re not worried about it,” he said. “Freak things are going to happen. Certain things are going to happen in athletics. You’re going to have some injuries at times.

“Hopefully, that doesn’t happen significantly. But I don’t care whether it’s a contact drill, a non-contact drill,

when you’re out there in athletics and these guys are as big and fast and talented and doing things, you can have injuries. But how much you hit and how physical you are I don’t think plays a big part into it. You go after it. You play hard. You go in there. And you try to do the best you can.

“God willing, everybody will come out of it healthy. I think we practice smart. But in the end we need to be a hard, high-effort, physical football team. And that’s the way we’re going to practice.”

THE ADJUSTER

No, it’s not a movie role for actor turned governor **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**. It’s **MIKE MCNEILL**’s role on the Nebraska football team. McNeill is the “adjuster.”

Among the most notable story-lines going into spring practice was McNeill’s move from tight end, which he has played throughout his Cornhusker career, to slot receiver.

As it turns out, however, the move wasn’t as dramatic as it first seemed. In fact, he’s listed as a tight end/wide receiver now. His position is “a moving piece,” he said. “It’s a wide receiver, and it isn’t.

“I can go anywhere. We call it ‘the adjuster.’”

McNeill, a senior-to-be, was the team’s second-leading receiver last season, with 28 catches for 259 yards (third on the team) and four touchdowns (tied for first).

Though he wouldn’t describe McNeill

Spring Preview



REX BURKHEAD

AARON BABCOCK

RUNNING BACK RACE: Despite being hampered by a shoulder problem, **ROY HELU, JR.** rushed for 1,147 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. He's back, and healthy. But he'll still have to compete to hold a starting job at I-back. "I hear every spring that there is a quarterback race, but this spring there might be a running back race," said All-Big 12 cornerback **PRINCE AMUKAMARA**, like Helu a senior-to-be.

REX BURKHEAD established himself as a true freshman, despite missing five games with a broken foot. And with Helu and Burkhead ailing, **DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON** also played as a true freshman.

The 6-foot-1 Robinson was listed at 230 pounds on the spring roster, 15 more than last season.

as "under-utilized," coach **BO PELINI** said, "I thought we needed to get him the ball more. Sometimes it wasn't a scheme thing; I think sometimes he was open and we didn't get him the football. We just think he's a heck of a football player, and I thought he had a chance to have a bigger year than he had because I saw him on film. He was open a lot."

McNeill expects a seamless transition. "If you know our concepts and you know our offense, you can play anywhere," he said. "After four years, I think I know most of the routes, so it shouldn't be hard."

COACHES CLINIC

Former Florida State coach **BOBBY BOWDEN** will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 Nebraska Football Spring Coaches Clinic, April 2-3. Bowden finished his career in 2009 as the second-winningest coach in major college football history. He had only one losing season in 34 years, his first in 1976. He is the only major college football coach to have 14 consecutive 10-win seasons.

"Obviously, having Coach Bowden come up is an added bonus," said Bo Pelini. "He's a legend and one of the greatest guys to ever walk the sideline."

NUMBERS GAME

On letter-of-intent signing day, **BO PELINI** talked about where the Cornhuskers stood in relation to scholarship numbers. The NCAA maximum is 85 players on scholarship.

"There are a lot more things that create numbers for you than (just) seniors graduating," he said. For example, two scholarship recruits not listed on the spring roster distributed the day before the first practice were defensive tackle **BEN MARTIN** from Lincoln, Neb., and offensive lineman **CRUZ BARRETT** from Daytona Beach, Fla. Both would have been fifth-year seniors in the fall.

SIDELINED

In addition to quarterback **ZAC LEE**, who isn't fully recovered from elbow surgery, cornerback **ANDREW GREEN**, a redshirted freshman from San Antonio, Texas, will miss time during the spring. "He had a nagging injury," **BO PELINI** said. "We just wanted to get it cleared up and fixed."

Offensive guard **RICKY HENRY** likely will miss the spring, recovering from shoulder surgery. And linebacker **MATHEW MAY** might not be able to practice until late in the spring, if at all, because of a groin injury. Otherwise, the Cornhuskers were for the most part healthy as spring drills began.

2010 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ALPHABETICAL SPRING ROSTER

NO	EXP	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
95	***	Allen, Pierre	DE	6-5	265	Sr.	Denver, Colo. (Thomas Jefferson)
21	***	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-1	205	Sr.	Glendale, Ariz. (Apollo)
70		Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	255	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
9		Ankrah, Jason	DE	6-4	260	RFr.	Gaithersburg, Md. (Quince Orchard)
70		Ash, Nick	OL	6-5	275	RFr.	Keller, Texas
91		Barry, Robert	TE	6-8	240	RFr.	Battle Creek, Neb.
2	*	Bell, Antonio	WR	6-2	190	So.	Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland)
39	*	Blatchford, Justin	DB	6-1	200	So.	Ponca, Neb.
14	**	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	185	Jr.	Cedar Hill, Texas
9		Broekemeier, Joe	WR	6-4	210	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
22	*	Burkhead, Rex	IB	5-11	210	So.	Plano, Texas
22		Camarata, Joseph	LB	5-10	225	So.	Overland Park, Kan. (Rockhurst)
58	**	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
8	*	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	210	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
51		Chapek, Brandon	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
77		Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	295	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Christian)
42		Clark, Tyson	WR	6-4	205	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
71		Coffey, Jesse	OL	6-7	290	RFr.	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
51	*	Compton, Will	LB	6-2	225	So.	Bonne Terre, Mo. (North County)
1	*	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	195	So.	Shreveport, La. (Calvary Baptist Academy)
81	*	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	255	So.	Ames, Iowa
94	**	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	285	Jr.	Cozad, Neb.
95		Daake, Tyler	P/PK	6-2	210	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
27		Damkroger, Jon	P/PK	6-1	190	Jr.	Firth, Neb. (Norris/Nebraska-Omaha)
31	*	Dean, Jase	CB	6-0	190	So.	Bridgeport, Neb.
15	**	Dennard, Alfonzo	CB	5-10	195	Jr.	Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)
87		Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	190	So.	Wauneta, Neb. (Wauneta-Palisade)
32		Ebke, Jim	S	6-0	210	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East/South Dakota State)
92		Fahie, Tyrone	DE	6-3	255	Sr.	Virginia Beach, Va. (Ocean Lakes)
35		Failla, Nick	WR	5-10	185	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
42	*	Fisher, Sean	LB	6-6	235	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
11	**	Gilleylen, Curenski	WR	6-0	215	Jr.	Leander, Texas
7	*	Gomes, DeJon	DB	6-0	200	Sr.	Hayward, Calif. (Logan/City College of San Francisco)
11		Green, Andrew	CB	6-0	190	RFr.	San Antonio, Texas (James Madison)
17	*	Green, Cody	QB	6-4	225	So.	Dayton, Texas
41	***	Grove, Thomas	LB	6-2	225	Sr.	Arlington, Neb.
99		Guy, Jay	DL	6-1	305	Fr.	Houston, Texas (Eisenhower)
28	**	Hagg, Eric	DB	6-2	210	Sr.	Peoria, Ariz. (Ironwood)
50		Hardrick, Jermarcus	OL	6-7	320	Jr.	Batesville, Miss. (South Panola/Fort Scott CC)
30	**	Hays, Mike	FB	6-1	235	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
10	***	Helu Jr., Roy	IB	6-0	220	Sr.	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
90	***	Henery, Alex	PK/P	6-2	175	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
74	*	Henry, Ricky	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke/N.D. State College of Science)
8	***	Henry, Will	WR	6-5	215	Sr.	El Paso, Texas (J.M. Hanks)
80	**	Hill, Ryan	TE	6-3	255	Jr.	Arvada, Colo. (West)
35	*	Holt, Matt	LB	6-0	210	So.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (West)
57		Hron, Mitch	LB	6-2	230	RFr.	Schuyler, Neb.
85		Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	210	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
58		Jackson, Justin	DL	6-3	270	So.	Roca, Neb. (Norris)
29		Jameson, Seth	DB	6-1	195	RFr.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)
28	*	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	210	Jr.	Aurora, Colo.
73	**	Jones, D.J.	OL	6-5	310	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)
52		Jones, Dwight	OL	6-4	275	RFr.	Gretna, Neb.
78	**	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	315	Jr.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Trevor Browne)
67		Kanne, Colin	OL	6-4	280	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
12		Kellogg III, Ron	QB	6-1	210	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
89		Kerr, J.T.	TE	6-4	240	RFr.	San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch)
4		Kildow, Ty	WR	5-7	175	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
84	*	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	220	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Grandview/Fort Scott CC)
85		Klingelhofer, Faron	DL	6-2	265	Jr.	Amherst, Neb. (Amherst/Nebraska-Kearney)
44		Kreikemeier, Micah	LB	6-3	220	So.	West Point, Neb. (Central Catholic)
1	***	Kunalic, Adi	PK	6-0	190	Sr.	Fort Worth, Texas (North Crowley)
5	*	Lee, Zac	QB	6-2	215	Sr.	San Francisco, Calif. (St. Ignatius Prep/City College of San Francisco)
48	*	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	235	Jr.	Neligh, Neb. (Neligh-Oakdale/South Dakota)

NO	EXP	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
37		Lewis, Tyrone	LB	6-2	205	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)
75		Lingenfelter, Luke	OL	6-4	280	Jr.	Plainview, Neb.
41		Long, Jake	TE	6-4	235	RFr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
61		Long, Spencer	OL	6-4	285	RFr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
96	*	Maier, Brett	P/PK	6-0	185	So.	Kearney, Neb.
92	*	Mangieri, P.J.	LS	6-4	245	So.	Peoria, Ill. (Dunlap)
49		Manninger, Matt	LB	6-1	220	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
26	*	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	175	So.	Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney)
46	*	Martin, Eric	LB	6-2	240	So.	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
88	*	Martin, Jay	DE	6-2	230	Jr.	Waverly, Neb.
3		Martinez, Taylor	QB	6-1	195	RFr.	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
36	**	May, Mathew	LB	6-1	215	Jr.	Imperial, Neb. (Chase County)
86		McClure, Mychael	TE	6-5	245	So.	Wisner, Neb. (Wisner-Pilger)
65		McDermott, Colin	DE	6-2	250	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
66		McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	255	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
44	***	McNeill, Mike	TE/WR	6-4	235	Sr.	Kirkwood, Mo.
67		Meginnis, Sam	LS/LB	6-2	225	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
32	*	Mendoza, Marcus	IB	5-10	195	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Spring Woods)
34	*	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	265	So.	Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei)
2		Middleton, Lazarri	DB	6-1	190	RFr.	Long Beach, Calif. (Poly)
68		Molek, Josh	DT	6-3	245	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
90	**	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	285	Jr.	New Orleans, La. (McDonogh 35)
43		Moravec, Brent	DB	6-0	195	So.	Grand Island, Neb. (Central Catholic)
69		Nickens, Brodrick	OL	6-5	285	RFr.	Alliance, Neb.
29		Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	225	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
12	*	Osborne, Courtney	S	6-3	200	So.	Garland, Texas (South Garland)
21		Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	205	So.	Garland, Texas (South Garland)
24	***	Paul, Niles	WR	6-1	220	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
56		Paulsen, Devin	LB	6-2	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Christian)
62		Pensick, Cole	OL	6-2	270	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
76		Qvale, Brent	OL	6-7	320	RFr.	Williston, N.D.
53		Randle, Thaddeus	DL	6-1	280	RFr.	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
25	*	Reed, Kyler	TE	6-3	230	So.	Shawnee, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)
16		Richards, Wil	DB	5-11	195	RFr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West)
27	*	Robinson, Dontrayevous	IB	6-1	230	So.	Euleless, Texas (Trinity)
97		Rome, Chase	DL	6-3	280	Fr.	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)
57		Sirles, Jeremiah	OL	6-6	310	RFr.	Lakewood, Colo. (Bear Creek)
65	***	Smith, Mike	OL	6-6	285	Sr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Palo Verde)
13	*	Smith, P.J.	S	6-2	210	So.	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
7		Spano, Kody	QB	6-2	210	So.	Stephenville, Texas
59		Starkebaum, Colby	LB	6-1	215	RFr.	Sterling, Colo.
55	*	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT	6-6	290	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
38	*	Stoddard, Graham	LB	6-2	235	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
3	***	Thenarse, Rickey	S	6-0	210	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Jordan)
79		Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	290	So.	The Woodlands, Texas
37		Thomsen, Kevin	DE	6-2	240	Jr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
23	**	Thorell, Lance	DB	6-1	200	Jr.	Loomis, Neb.
59		Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	285	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
14	*	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	225	So.	Brenham, Texas
10		Washington, Dijon	DB	6-0	185	Fr.	Lawndale, Calif. (Leuzinger)
15	***	Washington, Latravis	QB	6-3	230	Sr.	Bradenton, Fla. (Bayshore)
16		Watson, Adam	DB	6-0	185	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Niwot [Colo.])
47		Wells, Brett	TE	6-4	215	RFr.	St. Paul, Neb.
5	***	West, Anthony	CB	6-0	205	Sr.	San Diego, Calif. (Point Loma)
45		Whaley, Alonzo	LB	6-1	225	So.	Madisonville, Texas
98		Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	255	So.	Denton, Texas (Ryan)
68	***	Williams, Keith	OL	6-5	310	Sr.	Florissant, Mo. (McClure North)
49	***	Young, Dreu	TE	6-4	255	Sr.	Cozad, Neb.
31		Zimmerer, C.J.	FB	6-0	230	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Gross)

Lettermen in Bold; *Indicates Letters Earned; Class indicates 2010 fall eligibility)

Head Coach: Bo Pelini, 20-8, third season at Nebraska; **Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line:** Carl Pelini;

Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Shawn Watson; **Running Backs:** Tim Beck; **Tight Ends:** Ron Brown;

Associate Head Coach/Offensive Line: Barney Cotton; **Assistant Head Coach (Offense)/Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator:** Ted Gilmore;

Linebackers: Mike Ekeler; **Defensive Ends:** John Papuchis; **Assistant Head Coach (Defense)/Secondary:** Marvin Sanders;

Graduate Assistant/Offense: Curt Baldus; **Graduate Assistant/Defense:** Ross Watson; **Head Football Strength Coach:** James Dobson;

Associate A.D./Football: Jeff Jamrog; **Head Football Trainer:** Mark Mayer; **Equipment Manager:** Jay Terry.

Rest of the Big12

NORTH

COLORADO (3-9)

2010 Matchup: Lincoln, Nov. 26/27

Spring Practice: March 6-April 10

Coach Dan Hawkins is back for another season after it appeared he might not be. In his four seasons, the Buffaloes are a combined 16-33, so there is a sense of urgency. Freshman quarterback Nick Hirschman enrolled for second-semester classes and is participating in spring practice. Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen, who shared the quarterback job last season, both return.

IOWA STATE (7-6)

2010 Matchup: Ames, Nov. 6

Spring Practice: March 23-April 17

Coach Paul Rhoads was the first Cyclone coach with a winning record in his first season in Ames since 1931. Iowa State wouldn't have accomplished that, and wouldn't have gone to the Insight Bowl, if not for eight Cornhusker turnovers. Rhoads brought back veteran Bobby Elliott as secondary coach and recruiting coordinator. The stint is Elliott's third at Iowa State.

KANSAS (5-7)

2010 Matchup: Lincoln, Nov. 13

Spring Practice: March 27-April 24

The good news is that Turner Gill has 15 returning starters with whom to build in his first spring as Jayhawks head coach. The bad news is that quarterback Todd Reesing and wide receivers Kerry Meier and Dezmon Briscoe aren't among those 15. Plus, Gill has to continue the healing of wounds left by the forced departure of Mark Mangino.

KANSAS STATE (6-6)

2010 Matchup: Manhattan, Oct. 7

Spring Practice: March 21-April 24

The attempt at resurrecting Kansas State's program continues under coach Bill Snyder, who directed the Wildcats to six victories in his first season back on the sideline. That would have been sufficient for a bowl invitation had not two of them been against FCS opponents. Running back Daniel Thomas returns, but wide receiver and kick returner Brandon Banks does not.

MISSOURI (8-5)

2010 Matchup: Lincoln, Oct. 30

Spring Practice: March 9-April 17

The Tigers have won 45 games over the past five seasons, third most in the Big 12 during that time. Whether coach Gary Pinkel can continue such success will depend on replacing, among others, wide receiver Danario Alexander. Freshman quarterbacks Tyler Gabbert and James Franklin enrolled early. Husker fans remember Gabbert – and his brother Blaine, the returning starter at quarterback.

SOUTH

BAYLOR (4-8)

2010 Matchup: DNP

Spring Practice: March 16-April 10

Quarterback Robert Griffin III is back after season-ending knee surgery but is limited in what he's being asked to do. Six newcomers are going through drills as third-year coach Art Briles tries to direct the Bears to a winning record for the first time since 1995, pre-Big 12. The two best defenders, linebacker Joe Pawelek and safety Jordan Lake, must be replaced.

BIG 12 TOP RETURNERS

OFFENSE

Jerrold Johnson, QB, Texas A&M (Sr.)

Daniel Thomas, RB, Kansas St. (Sr.)

Roy Helu, Jr., RB, Nebraska (Sr.)

Demarco Murray, RB, Oklahoma (Sr.)

Bryant Ward, FB, Oklahoma State (Sr.)

Ryan Broyles, WR, Oklahoma (Jr.)

Nate Solder, OL, Colorado (Sr.)

Alex Henery, PK, Nebraska (Sr.)

Grant Ressel, PK, Missouri (Jr.)

DEFENSE

Jared Crick, DL, Nebraska (Jr.)

Von Miller, DL, Texas A&M (Sr.)

Jeremy Beal, DL, Oklahoma (Sr.)

Travis Lewis, LB, Oklahoma (Jr.)

Prince Amukamara, DB, Nebraska (Sr.)

Quinton Carter, DB, Oklahoma (Sr.)

Trent Hunter, DB, Texas A&M (Jr.)

Derek Epperson, P, Baylor (Sr.)

Tress Way, P, Oklahoma, (So.)

[First or second team coaches All-Big 12]

BIG 12 – THE DEPARTED

OFFENSE

Colt McCoy, QB, Texas

Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma

Keith Toston, RB, Oklahoma State

Jordan Shipley, WR, Texas

Danario Alexander, WR, Missouri

Dezmon Briscoe, WR, Kansas

Jermaine Gresham, TE, Oklahoma

Russell Okung, OL, Oklahoma State

Trent Williams, OL, Oklahoma

Nick Stringer, OL, Kansas State

Brandon Carter, OL, Texas Tech

DEFENSE

Ndamukong Suh, DL, Nebraska

Gerald McCoy, DL, Oklahoma

Sergio Kindle, DL, Texas

Sean Weatherspoon, LB, Missouri

Jesse Smith, LB, Iowa State

Earl Thomas, DB, Texas

Dominique Franks, DB, Oklahoma

Larry Asante, DB, Nebraska

Perrish Cox, DB, Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA (8-5)

2010 Matchup: DNP

Spring Practice: March 8-April 17

The Sooners were hit hard by underclassmen leaving early. Sam Bradford and Jermaine Gresham, who were sidelined by injury last season, are gone as are Gerald McCoy and Dominique Franks. So the process of identifying replacements has begun. Prominent among early enrollees in a recruiting class ranked No. 7 nationally by Rivals.com are wide receiver Kenny Stills and safety Tony Jefferson.

OKLAHOMA STATE (9-4)

2010 Matchup: Stillwater, Oct. 23

Spring Practice: March 8-April 17

The Cowboys have a new offensive coordinator in Dana Holgorsen, who spent the last two years at Houston. Keith Toston, the Big 12's leading rusher, and Russell Okung, who helped clear the way for him, are gone but Kendall Hunter, the conference's leading rusher in 2008, returns after an injury-plagued junior season. Coach Mike Gundy must replace quarterback Zac Robinson.

TEXAS (13-1)

2010 Matchup: Lincoln, Oct. 16

Spring Practice: Feb. 26-April 4

Colt McCoy and Jordan Shipley as well as several other key

players on both sides of the ball must be replaced. Garrett Gilbert got his baptism as McCoy's successor in the national championship game. First-team All-Big 12 defensive back Earl Thomas, a sophomore, declared for the NFL draft. Working against the run out of two-back sets is a defensive priority.

TEXAS A&M (6-7)

2010 Matchup: College Station, Nov. 20

Spring Practice: March 23-April 17

Quarterback Jerrod Johnson, the Big 12 total offense leader, returns. Three freshmen left Texas high schools early to compete for the job as Johnson's back-up. Von Miller led the nation with 17 sacks. Four of coach Mike Sherman's five new assistants are on the defensive side of the ball, including coordinator Tim DeRuyter, who came from the Air Force Academy.

TEXAS TECH (9-4)

2010 Matchup: DNP

Spring Practice: March 22-April 17

For the first time since 1999, Mike Leach isn't conducting spring practice in Lubbock. The job is Tommy Tuberville's. Among the biggest questions is how much the offense will change. Taylor Potts and Steven Sheffield are back to compete for the starting job at quarterback. Tuberville has indicated he will settle on one or the other and not alternate them.



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1970-71*



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DOC SADLER

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Direction of program begins with Sadler's self-evaluation

For the first time in the four-year Doc Sadler era, the Nebraska men's basketball team finished its season with fewer Big 12 Conference victories than it had the previous season.

A lot fewer.

The 2-14 conference record was Nebraska's worst in the 14-year era of the Big 12, and its last-place conference finish was only the program's second in 48 years.

What's it all mean?

Well, for starters, a self-evaluation by Sadler.

"It was going in the right direction, but I've let it kind of slow down, I think," said Sadler, whose first three teams were 6-10, 7-9 and 8-8 in the Big 12 regular season.

"It's easy to sit and say this or that, but I've got to really look at myself and evaluate where I'm at, and then we'll start with the other things."

Nebraska finished 15-18 – the first overall losing season under Sadler – after a quarterfinal loss to Texas A&M in the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. The Huskers had upset No. 5 seed Missouri in the first round – their first victory of the season over a North Division team after going 0-10 in the regular season against divisional foes.

"I've got to evaluate everything, and the commitment has got to be strong," Sadler said.

"I mean, this isn't easy, and the league that we're playing in isn't easy, and if (other teams) are committing to certain things, then we've got to commit to certain things if we're going to get this going in the right direction – which it was."

Nebraska loses seniors Ryan Anderson and Sek Henry. Anderson finished his career ranked in the school's career top 10 in 3-pointers made, 3-point percentage and steals, and Henry never missed a game in his career while ranking in the school's top 15 for career assists.

As for the rest of the roster, Sadler said player departures are possible.

"I hope we don't lose anyone, but if I don't like the answers I get when I meet with them individually – if their goals are a little bit different than what's best for Nebraska, then I'll shake their hand and tell them there's other places to be," Sadler said.

How many players might depart doesn't concern Sadler, who's had 12 scholarship players leave the program in his first 3 ½ seasons.

"I don't care how many it is, because one thing's for sure, if it's one guy that's not on board, next thing you know there will be four," he said. "Next thing you know there will be six."

For the first time in his tenure, Sadler said he's requiring that all players remain in Lincoln over the summer. The change in philosophy is aimed at improving team chemistry, on and off the court.

To that end, Sadler is taking his team on a foreign trip this spring or summer, where Nebraska will play four or five games.

"This team has given me complete effort," Sadler said. "But you're not ever happy losing basketball games, and that's what I'm supposed to do, is win 'em. But am I happy with our team's effort? No question.

"I think we're closer than what a lot of

people may think, just because the thing that's difficult to have is a character team, especially today. There's not many teams that would've been 2-14 that would've given the effort that they continued to give every day. That tells me there's some character there. Our talent's a little bit better. We've still got to get that one dude. If that one dude we get, that one guy that can make a difference, then this could be a good start because we're fairly young."

Nebraska played seven freshmen and sophomores, including guard Brandon Richardson and center Jorge Brian Diaz, the team's top two returning scorers. The Huskers will also return Toney McCray, who missed most of the season after having elbow surgery, and Christopher Niemann, a center who's had two ACL surgeries and has yet to play in a Husker uniform. McCray will be a junior, Niemann a sophomore.

Joining the team will be junior college transfer Andre Almeida, a 6-foot-11, 320-pound center from Brazil who signed in November. He's played the last two seasons at Arizona Western College.

Nebraska also has an oral commitment from Caleb Walker, a 6-foot-4, 210-pound guard from Hutchinson, Kan., who's played the last two seasons at Butler County (Kan.) Community College. Walker, a standout football player in high school, was the Jayhawk West player of the year and averaged 16.4 points and 8.4 rebounds this season. Butler County, coached by Lincoln (Neb.) East graduate Mike Bargen, advanced to the NJCAA national tournament.

Those recruits put Nebraska at the NCAA limit of 13 scholarship players for next season, although Sadler said he continues to recruit another guard.

"The college game is about guards," Sadler said. "You have to have somebody

who can go make a play."

Nebraska's non-conference schedule for next season isn't complete, but the Huskers will host games against Creighton, USC and TCU, and will participate in the Puerto Rico Tip-Off, a tournament that features North Carolina, West Virginia, Minnesota, Vanderbilt, Davison, Western Kentucky and Hofstra.

Then, of course, is the Big 12 schedule, where Sadler knows his team needs to make significant improvement from 2009-10.

"We've got to get some wins," Sadler said. "I thought that train was going in the right direction in January, but you start in January, it kind of started stopping, so it's my job to get this thing going again." **N**

2009-10 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), W, 86-66
Nov. 10	Hastings (exh.), W, 71-39
Nov. 14	South Carolina Upstate, W, 76-49
Nov. 18	at Saint Louis, L, 69-55
Nov. 21	TCU, W, 90-77
Nov. 24	UMKC, W, 70-48
Nov. 29	at USC, W, 51-48
Dec. 2	Texas-Pan American, W, 81-53
Dec. 6	at Creighton, L, 67-61
Dec. 10	Chicago State, W, 74-39
Dec. 12	Oregon State, W, 50-44
Dec. 19	Jackson State, W, 57-41
	<i>at Las Vegas Classic</i>
Dec. 22	vs. Tulsa, W, 74-70
Dec. 23	vs. BYU, L, 88-66
Dec. 29	Southern Utah, W, 94-61
Jan. 2	Maryland Eastern Shore, W, 74-60
Jan. 5	Southeastern Louisiana, W, 77-59
Jan. 9	at Texas A&M, L, 64-53
Jan. 13	#3 Kansas, L, 84-72
Jan. 16	Iowa State, L, 56-53
Jan. 23	at Missouri, L, 70-53
Jan. 27	at Colorado, L, 72-60
Jan. 30	Oklahoma, W, 63-46
Feb. 2	#10 Kansas State, L, 76-57
Feb. 6	at #1 Kansas, L, 75-64
Feb. 10	#24 Baylor, L, 55-53
Feb. 13	at #14 Texas, L, 91-51
Feb. 17	at #7 Kansas State, L, 91-87
Feb. 20	Missouri, 5 p.m., L, 74-59
Feb. 24	at Iowa State, L, 78-74
Feb. 27	Texas Tech, W, 83-79 (2 OT)
Mar. 2	Colorado, L, 81-68
Mar. 6	at Oklahoma State, L 74-55
	<i>*at Big 12 Championship</i>
Mar. 10	vs. Missouri, W, 75-60
Mar. 11	vs. #23 Texas A&M, L, 70-64
	<i>*at Kansas City, Mo. (Spring Center)</i>

Women's Basketball

DOMINIQUE KELLY

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Husker women raise bar for future teams

There's life beyond the greatest women's basketball season in Nebraska history. But even in the stretch run of such a feat, one can't help wonder what that might be like.

Connie Yori will lose the most-complete player who's ever worn a Husker jersey and the program's second first-team All-American in forward Kelsey Griffin. There are five other seniors, too, including forward Cory Montgomery and guard Vonnie Turner, both of whom Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly believes will have a good chance to play in the WNBA.

So what happens next?

"I think, obviously, the challenge for her team, and we've gone through that here, is to understand what's possible," Fennelly said. "What is a really good year is not off-the-chart-great year. It's hard for players to understand.

"No. 1, you hope their fan base becomes something that is very stable. To the credit of the Nebraska fan, they started coming out in droves. Obviously, you need to use this to your advantage in recruiting. (But) it's hard. It's something you can't expect to happen every year. What you hope is there's someone on the roster that can . . . assume a bigger role, after seeing what the kids did this year."

In other words, Fennelly will be looking to see whether the returning Huskers who jump into more significant roles seize the excitement



and energy built throughout the 2009-10 season.

And if any of the new players can step in like Lindsey Moore did.

One thought in regard to recruiting is that if coaches can get one impact player every year and then fill in with some solid role players, you'll wind up with a team that can compete at the highest level.

Nebraska will have such a group next season in senior guard Dominique Kelley, senior forward Catheryn Redmon and the sophomore point guard Moore. The Huskers also will have proven guard Kaitlyn Burke, who will be a junior again after missing most of this season with an injury.

Yori also believes her incoming class of five includes at least two who have "star" quality -- 6-foot-2, do-all forward Jordan Hooper of Alliance, Neb., and Rebecca Woodberry, a 5-10 guard from Phoenix.

"You're trying to get more than one . . . but I really feel like there's a lot of truth to that (theory) because if you have four pretty good players in your program, and you stay healthy, you can do some things," Yori said.

Not surprisingly, Nebraska's banner season has opened some new doors in recruiting, and also created a buzz among fans.

The Huskers drew a school-record average of 7,390 for their 16 home games and led the Big 12 with an average of 11,383 for its eight league contests, and it will be important for them to capitalize on that curiosity.

Obviously, Yori can't control that part of things. But what her 2009-10 team has done is change what she thought was possible of achieving at Nebraska.

"I think it sets the bar higher," she said. "I didn't come here thinking, 'We could be a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.'"

"Our goal all along has been to be the best program in the North. I think that is a good, solid goal. Now, it doesn't mean

you're going to be the best team every year, but you hope that you can have some consistency there. To me, that's reasonable. A No. 1 seed is... 'Whoa, how'd that happen?'"

OK, so the moon and stars had to align properly. But what these Huskers accomplished wasn't all luck.

"They got better in the off-season, but they also got better in our practice setting," Yori said. "Kelsey's a great example of someone who athletically was pretty gifted but didn't have nearly the game that she has now."

What else?

"I think we've had a great will to win," Yori said. "We use the term will over skill. A lot of times that's what it comes down to."

The bottom line was they knew what it took to win.

"Hopefully what we've done this year," Montgomery said, "is put Nebraska on the map for women's basketball. I think this will push the program forward."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Sitting out with an injury last season gave Griffin a new perspective and bigger appreciation for coaching in general.

And so when Yori received recognition as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association national coach of the year, Griffin talked of the honor with a sparkle in her eyes.

"As a player, you get one side of the game, really. It's hard to step outside of yourself and see what the coaches do," she said. "They are on you; they are expecting so much of you, so it is really hard to appreciate why they are doing it. In sitting out, I had to become more of a motivator and to help coach underclassmen and help them understand the game plan."

"The biggest thing I learned, more than the hours (it takes) to scout and to set up a practice, was the motivation

aspect of coaching and how taxing and wearing that can be to motivate players who don't want to be motivated, or to bring energy when you don't necessarily have that type of energy. In doing that last year, I really wanted to be able to bring that energy to practice (this year), so the coaches can focus more on technique in practice."

Yori, in her 20th season as a college coach, paid tribute to former and present staff members and then noted how she's no better a coach than when the Huskers were 15-16 last season - an obvious salute to her players. **N**

2009-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 3	Pittsburg State (exh), W, 68-54
Nov. 8	Nebraska-Kearney (exh), W, 89-47
Nov. 13	Davidson, W, 86-62
Nov. 15	at UNLV, W, 73-51
Nov. 19	Idaho State, W, 88-41
Nov. 22	Washington State, W, 107-54 <i>Saint Mary's Hilton Tournament</i>
Nov. 27	UALR, at Moraga, Calif., W, 62-45
Nov. 28	at Saint Mary's College, W, 84-73
Dec. 3	South Dakota, W, 77-38
Dec. 5	Miami, at Coral Gables, Fla., W, 76-71
Dec. 9	Creighton, W, 69-56
Dec. 13	Northern Illinois, W, 69-44
Dec. 20	#5 LSU, W, 77-63
Dec. 30	at Colorado, W, 88-41
Jan. 4	at Vermont, W, 94-50
Jan. 9	at Iowa State, W, 57-49
Jan. 12	#19 Texas, W, 91-79
Jan. 16	at #9 Baylor, W, 65-56
Jan. 23	Kansas State, W, 71-56
Jan. 27	at Texas Tech, W, 89-47
Jan. 30	at Colorado, W, 80-64
Feb. 3	Oklahoma State, W, 88-67
Feb. 6	Texas A&M, W, 71-60
Feb. 10	at Kansas, W, 67-60
Feb. 13	at Missouri, W, 82-78
Feb. 17	#13 Iowa State, W, 60-50
Feb. 20	Colorado, W, 89-73
Feb. 24	at #11 Oklahoma, W, 80-64
Feb. 27	Missouri, W, 67-51
Mar. 3	Kansas, W, 77-52
Mar. 6	at Kansas State, W, 82-72 <i>*at Big 12 Championships</i>
Mar. 12	vs. Kansas State, W, 63-46
Mar. 13	vs. #11 Texas A&M, L, 80-70 <i>at NCAA Tournament</i>
Mar. 21	vs. Northern Iowa, W, 83-44
Mar. 23	vs. #22 UCLA, W, 83-70
Mar 27-30	NCAA Regionals
Apr 4-6	NCAA Women's Final Four at San Antonio, Texas (Alamodome)

** Big 12 Championships, Kansas City, Mo.*

*** NCAA Tournament, Minneapolis, Minn.*



Lemke gives Huskers overpowering arm

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Earlier that 40-degree, blustery March afternoon, Tom Lemke had allowed only one hit, an infield single, in six innings to earn the pitching victory against Houston Baptist. Now he was scraping and shoveling dirt, cleaning it from the steps of the third-base dugout at Hawks Field.

That's a freshman's responsibility, even on days he pitches.

"It's something we're assigned to do," Lemke said.

He got a brief reprieve on this particular day. He was among those on the post-game-interview list. So when coach Mike Anderson finished answering questions about the 13-4 victory, Lemke took a break from cleaning – after Anderson joked about freshmen being off-limits to reporters.

At 6-foot-8 and 231 pounds, Lemke neither looks like a freshman nor talks like one.

Being encircled by reporters with voice recorders and television cameras can be an intimidating experience. But then so can college athletes wielding aluminum bats.

And Lemke certainly wasn't intimidated by the Houston Baptist bats.

"Sometimes, you see freshman pitchers coming in a little timid, especially when it comes to the strike zone, throwing strikes," Casey Hauptman said of Lemke and fellow freshman Kurt Giller the week of the season-opening series at Fresno State. "From what I saw, they compete really well."

Hauptman is a junior right-hander who

has earned a spot in the weekend starting rotation.

"They throw the ball in the strike zone, and they really get after hitters. You can tell a difference, that they're just a little bit above everybody else, (above) average freshmen," he said.

Lemke was arguably the most prominent member of the Cornhuskers' 2009 recruiting class, a 10th-round draft pick of the Texas Rangers out of Northwest Christian High School in Phoenix.

He's Nebraska's highest-drafted incoming pitcher in at least the last two decades and among only 11 high school seniors drafted in the first 10 rounds in 2009 who didn't sign.

He also became the first Cornhusker freshman in at least a decade to start and

win on the opening weekend of the season, when he struck out six in five shutout innings against Fresno State.

Despite his size, “when you look at him, you don’t sit there and say, ‘Man, he’s overpowering,’” said Anderson. “But he’s on-top. He’s got good sink with his slider. He throws strikes.

“One of the things Tom creates is he’s a little deceptive because you don’t think he’s overpowering. But I’ll tell you this, he’s tough to hit because of the down-angle he creates.”

Other pitchers in Lemke’s recruiting class also were drafted, including: Giller (21st round), junior college transfer Ryan Hughes (16th round) and freshman Ryan Hander (39th round).

But “they’re all . . . very humble about it,” junior right-hander Mike Nesseth said. “They don’t talk about it. I haven’t heard one guy bring it up unless somebody else brings it up.

“I mean, they’re really here for the right reasons.”

Lemke has excelled in the classroom, too, earning a place on the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll during the fall semester, with a 3.69 grade-point average. He has yet to declare a major.

As for the humility, older players see to that.

“They kind of make sure you’re humble,” said Lemke. “And if you’re not, they’ll wake you up pretty quick and make you humble. I was kind of expecting to be pushed by the older guys.

“They definitely put you in your place if you need to be.”

That’s why, even on a day when he pitched well, he was shoveling dirt from the dugout.

“It doesn’t matter,” he said with a smile before resuming.

BIG 12 OPENING

Though the Cornhuskers lost two of three at Texas to open conference play, there was reason for optimism. They were one strike away from winning Friday night 5-3, against the No. 2-ranked Longhorns’ ace, Taylor Jungmann, who allowed seven hits and all five runs (earned) in 7 1/3 innings. Texas scored in the bottom of the ninth, with two out and one strike away from the third, with a double, a walk and a home run. Despite the crushing defeat, Nebraska bounced back behind junior right-hander Michael Mariot on Saturday, winning 5-3. Texas won the Sunday game 13-3 in eight innings.

Texas pitchers couldn’t get Adam Bailey out. The senior right-fielder from Scottsdale, Ariz., was 7-for-11 with three runs scored, two doubles, two home runs and six runs-batted-in.

BOMBS AWAY

Cody Asche hit two home runs last season and none in the first nine games in which he played this season. So he was two-for-52, home runs-to-games played. Then he hit home runs in three consecutive games against Houston Baptist in mid-March, two of them with two strikes.

The sophomore third baseman from O’Fallon, Mo., continued his hot hitting in the Big 12-opening series at Texas, going 6-for-12 with two doubles and five runs-batted in.

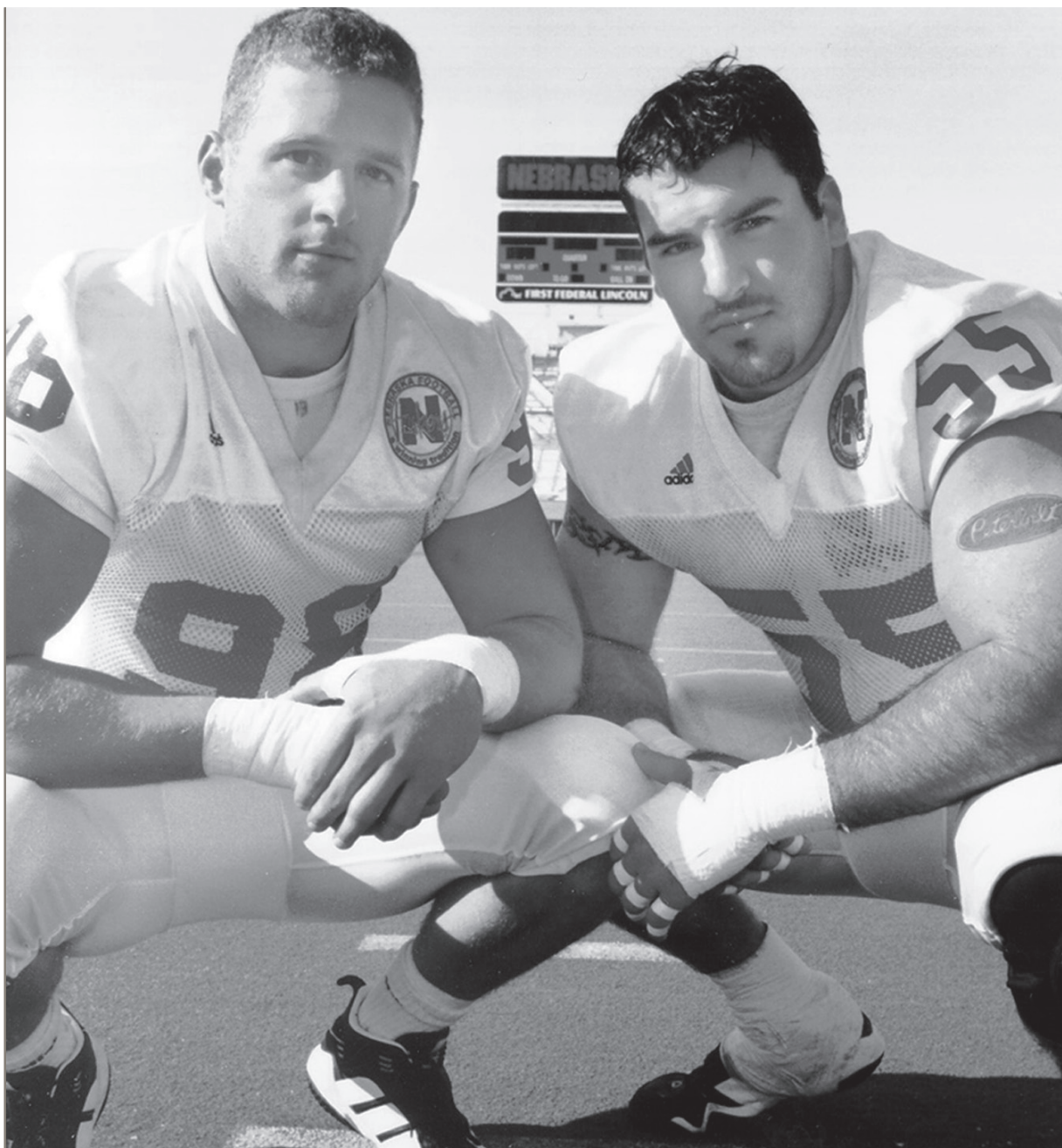
RIGS

Former Cornhusker football walk-on and captain Brandon Rigoni is in his first season as a full-time strength coach for the baseball team. “ ‘Rigs’ is crazy,” senior outfielder Adam Bailey said prior

to the season. “If we’re not going to have a great team, we’re all going to look good in our uniforms, I guess. That’s what he always says. And I’m like, ‘You don’t know what you’re talking about, do you?’ ” **N**

2010 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

2/19	at Fresno State, L, 5-7
2/20	at Fresno State, L, 2-8
2/21	at Fresno State, L, 9-10 (11)
2/22	at Fresno State, W, 4-1
2/26	vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, W, 21-9
2/27	at Rice, L, 3-4
2/28	vs. Elon, W, 5-3
3/5	at UCLA, L, 1-13
3/6	at UCLA, L, 3-5
3/7	at UCLA, L, 4-5
3/10	Nebraska-Kearney, W, 8-1
3/12	Houston Baptist, W, 10-2
3/13	Houston Baptist, W, 8-0
3/14	Houston Baptist, W, 13-4
3/16	South Dakota State, W, 12-6
3/19	at Texas*, L, 5-6
3/20	at Texas*, W, 5-3
3/21	at Texas*, W, 12-6
3/23	Northern Colorado, W, 15-5
3/24	Northern Colorado, W, 15-2
3/26	Oklahoma*, 6:35 p.m.
3/27	Oklahoma*, 2:05 p.m.
3/28	Oklahoma*, 1:05 p.m.
3/30	North Dakota, 6:35 p.m.
3/31	North Dakota, 1:05 p.m.
4/2	at Oklahoma State*, 6:30 p.m.
4/3	at Oklahoma State*, 2 p.m.
4/4	at Oklahoma State*, 1 p.m.
4/6	Creighton, 6:35 p.m.
4/9	at Kansas State*, 6:30 p.m.
4/10	at Kansas State*, 2 p.m.
4/11	at Kansas State*, 1 p.m.
4/13	Wichita State, 6:35 p.m.
4/16	Kansas*, 6:35 p.m.
4/17	Kansas*, 4:05 p.m.
4/18	Kansas*, 1:05 p.m.
4/20	vs. Creighton, 6:30 p.m.
4/23	at Baylor*, 6:30 p.m.
4/24	at Baylor*, 3 p.m.
4/25	at Baylor*, 1 p.m.
4/27	at Iowa, 6:05 p.m.
4/30	Texas A&M*, 6:35 p.m.
5/1	Texas A&M*, 2:05 p.m.
5/2	Texas A&M*, 11:05 a.m.
5/7	Southeast Missouri State, 6:35 p.m.
5/8	Southeast Missouri State, 2:05 p.m.
5/9	Southeast Missouri State, 12:05 p.m.
5/14	at Missouri*, 7 p.m.
5/15	at Missouri*, 7 p.m.
5/16	at Missouri*, Noon
5/18	vs. Creighton^, 7 p.m.
5/21	Texas Tech*, 6:35 p.m.
5/22	Texas Tech*, 2:05 p.m.
5/23	Texas Tech*, 1:05 p.m.
6/4-7	NCAA Regionals
6/11-14	NCAA Super Regionals
6/19-30	College World Series^
* Conference Games	
^ at Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha, Neb.	



IN THE CONVERSATION - Identifying the best defensive lineman in Cornhusker history is an exercise in futility. **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who could be the first pick in the NFL draft in April, was the most decorated in a single season. No argument there. But rush end **GRANT WISTROM** (No. 98) and tackle **JASON PETER** (No. 55) would have to be considered in any such discussion. Wistrom was a two-time consensus All-American, a two-time Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and the 1997 Outland Trophy winner. He also

was a two-time, first-team Academic All-American and was recently inducted in the College Football Hall of Fame. Peter was a consensus All-American and might have earned more recognition had he not played alongside Wistrom. They both played on three national championship teams and were emotional leaders on the 1997 team, after considering leaving following the 1996 season by way of the NFL draft. Both benefited by returning. They were first-round picks, Wistrom the sixth selection, Peter the 14th in 1998.

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WHITE 40, RED 34

APRIL 22, 1995 • AT MEMORIAL STADIUM

Those returning from Tom Osborne's first national championship team, at least most of them, put on an offensive show in the 1995 Red-White Spring Game.

The teams had a combined 953 yards of offense, including a record 558 passing. **TOMMIE FRAZIER** broke the individual passing record, which had stood for 27 years, with 228 yards – on only five completions. And **SCOTT FROST** threw for a record three touchdowns.

The spring's most interesting story line, beyond the anticipated quest for another national championship, was the quarterback competition between Frazier and **BROOK BERRINGER**, both of whom would be seniors. Frazier had needed to work on his passing, Berringer his running.

Their competition would continue in fall camp Osborne said afterward.

There were big plays aplenty, including **TODD UHLIR**'s 89-yard touchdown run, the longest from scrimmage in Spring Game history. Uhlir was a sophomore walk-on from Battle Creek, Neb., who had been listed as the No. 6 fullback on the pre-spring depth chart but played I-back.

He would not earn a letter during his brief Cornhusker career. Neither would **BRIAN KNUCKLES**, who led the Red team in rushing with 99 yards on 15 carries.

LAWRENCE PHILLIPS, the No. 1 I-back, didn't play because of a hamstring injury, and **DAMON BENNING**, the No. 2 I-back, was sidelined by an ankle injury 2 minutes into the game.

The White team, which included the first-team defense and the second-team offense, won for the first time since 1989, against a Red team that included the first-team offense and second-team defense.

White 40, Red 34

White	0	20	7	13	–	40
Red	0	13	14	7	–	34

(W) Tim Carpenter 2 pass Scott Frost (Chris Herron kick)

(R) Brook Berringer 36 run (Jesse Kosch kick)

(W) Riley Washington 17 pass Frost (Lance Brown kick)

(R) Reggie Baul 80 pass Tommie Frazier (kick failed)

(W) Washington 20 pass Matt Turman (kick failed)

(R) Frazier 6 run (pass failed)

(R) Brian Knuckles 1 run (Knuckles run)

(W) Washington 52 pass Frost (Brown kick)

(W) Josh Cobb 7 run (Brown kick)

(W) Todd Uhlir 89 run (kick failed)

(R) Baul 48 pass Frazier (Brian Morro kick)

Attendance: 39,771

TOM OSBORNE: "I still think we have a good defense. A lot of those points came with the first offense against the third defense. Any time you're playing against yourself it's hard to tell a lot."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► The night before the Spring Game a celebration of the 1994 national championship drew 40,000 to Memorial Stadium. Players received their championship rings. The first to receive his was **DARIN ERSTAD**, who immediately left to join the baseball team for a game against Iowa State at Hawks Field. The game's first pitch was delayed until 9 p.m.

► Frost redshirted that fall, after transferring at mid-year from Stanford, where he played two seasons, the first at quarterback, the second at defensive back.

► Knuckles was a highly publicized recruit from Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College, where he broke **MIKE ROZIER**'s career-rushing record. He redshirted in the fall of 1994 and transferred to Western Illinois before ever seeing the field at Nebraska.



SCOTT FROST

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

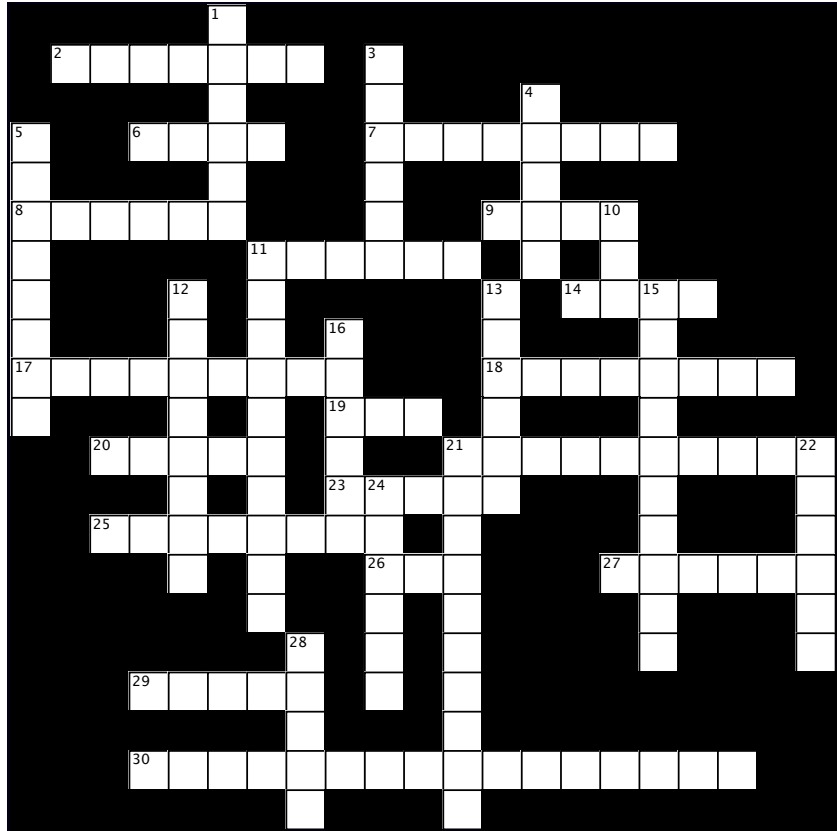
ACROSS

2. 2009 Novak Trophy winner
6. Network for NU-Kansas State telecast
7. 2003 All-America safety
8. 2001 All-America defensive back
9. Bo's older brother
11. Quarterback commitment for 2011 class
14. Wears No. 5 (defense)
17. Bo Pelini's alma mater
18. April 22-24 event
19. Defensive tackle recruit from Texas
20. 2002 All-America punt returner
21. Ex-Husker drafted in first round in 2005
23. Rex Burkhead's home state
25. Ex-Husker drafted in first round in 2007
26. Leading tackler in 2009
27. Ex-Husker center now with Detroit Lions
29. Jared Crick's hometown
30. 2010 Homecoming opponent

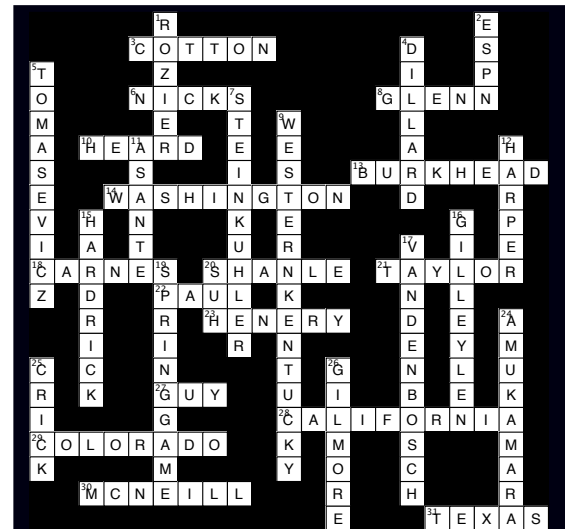
DOWN

1. Junior college tight end recruit
3. Head strength coach
4. Wore retired No. 60
5. 1971 Outland Trophy winner
10. Wears No. 5 (offense)
11. Ex-Husker who won gold medal in Winter Olympics
12. Oct. 30 opponent
13. Turner Gill's new school
15. April 17 event
16. 2009 walk-on MVP
21. 2010 non-conference road opponent
22. Mike Smith's home state
24. Ex-Husker punter who became baseball all-star
28. 2010 non-conference opponent

Answers will appear in the May issue



MARCH CROSSWORD SOLUTION



HUSKERNUTZ



SPRING FOOTBALL GIVES HUSKER LINEMEN A CHANCE TO SHAKE OFF THAT WINTER RUST... AND LETS LOCAL FARMERS GET THEIR CORN FIELDS CLEARED OFF.

WHAT SEASON WAS THIS?

Junior Bob Churchich opened as the starting quarterback but gave way to senior Fred Duda in the third game against Iowa State.

Halfback Harry Wilson was the leading rusher.

The Blackshirts were led by linebacker Mike Kennedy, tackle Walt Barnes and cornerback Bill Johnson, who came to Nebraska as a walk-on – twice.

Johnson saved a 21-17 victory at Oklahoma State by tackling the Cowboys' Walt Garrison at the NU 5-yard line on the final play.

Answer will appear in our next issue



THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Ross an unsung hero for Nebraska tradition

IF NOT FOR Jim Ross, Bob Devaney might not have decided to leave Wyoming to become head football coach at Nebraska in 1962. At least that's what Devaney once told a newspaper reporter.

Ross, a Devaney assistant at Wyoming, was a fisherman, and as such, Devaney figured he wouldn't be all that enthusiastic about leaving a fisherman's paradise such as Wyoming.

So when Ross endorsed the move, Devaney figured it would be the thing to do.

"I thought it must be pretty good," Devaney was quoted years later.

Devaney was a story teller, of course, and he might have been exaggerating Ross's influence on his decision, like saying that among the reasons he didn't accept a job as the Miami Hurricanes' coach following the 1963 season was the fact his wife, Phyllis, had just purchased snow tires.

But there was an element of truth to the Ross story. Devaney definitely discussed the matter of leaving Wyoming with his close friend and took his counsel into account.

I don't claim to have known Ross well. But he was always kind to me, in part, because of my uncle, Gib, who was the football equipment manager at Nebraska and among those who used to play pitch with Ross in the north field house.

I know Ross was a gentleman. I know he was loyal to Devaney, as Devaney was to him. And I know his impact on the course of Cornhusker football. His name isn't nearly as familiar as Devaney's or Tom Osborne's or any of the other head coaches who shaped Nebraska's tradition. But he contributed behind the scenes.

And his passing, at age 94, in mid-March should be acknowledged.

That's daunting for someone on the periphery. Even so, bear with me.

In some ways, Ross was Ed McMahon to Devaney's Johnny Carson, though such a comparison might seem a bit superficial or even contrived. Ross was, however, Devaney's right-hand man.

The two were friends, "real good friends," Ross once told me.

I still have the transcript of my interview notes, from some 20 years ago.

Their friendship began in Alpena, Mich., where Devaney was the high school football coach and Ross was his assistant, where Ross was the basketball coach and Devaney was his assistant.

They were together there for seven years, coaching and officiating, at \$12.50 a game.

One night, Devaney forgot to pack his officiating slacks and had to borrow a pair from Ross. He couldn't pull them on because "the son of a gun sewed 'em up on me, so I couldn't get them around my waist," Devaney wrote in his 1981 autobiography. "He started to laugh.

"He showed me how he had sewed the seams up so I couldn't get into them."

Such was their relationship. And when Devaney was hired by Wyoming, after three years as an assistant at Michigan State, he immediately called Ross to join him.

Ross was still at Alpena High and at age 47, he was thinking about retiring from coaching.

Four other assistants came from Wyoming to Nebraska with Devaney. Ross

and Devaney took the train to Lincoln for Devaney's first press conference. The others followed.

Ross coached the defensive backfield for seven years, then became the head freshman coach in 1969. More accurately, perhaps, after back-to-back 6-4 seasons, Devaney decided to entrust the incoming freshmen to Ross, who was a kind of father figure to the young athletes.

In seven seasons, Ross-coached freshman teams were a combined 27-2.

Among the first freshmen Ross coached was a back from Omaha Tech, Johnny Rodgers. "I couldn't believe that skinny little kid was as good as he was," Ross recalled many years later.

Among the last freshmen Ross coached, before leaving the field to oversee the newly constructed Devaney Sports Center, was a lineman from Omaha Burke, Barney Cotton.

"He was knowledgeable, but he was fun," Cotton said a few days after attending Ross's funeral. "He had a great demeanor about him. Players really liked him. And he liked them.

"You could tell; there was a lot of love in him for the guys."

A coach could ask for no better testimonial.

Ross never regretted leaving Wyoming's fishing for Nebraska's football.

The facilities at Wyoming were better than Nebraska's. But the players weren't. "We were lucky in high school and lucky in college," he said. "We inherited good kids."

Good kids, that's a coach putting the emphasis where it should be.

That was Jim Ross. **N**



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